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# EASTERN

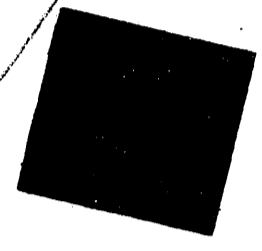
**F.O.  
371**

1947

PALESTINE

File No. 48

pp. 7452-7744



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Reference: **FO 371 / 61822**

**CLOSED  
UNTIL  
1978**

61822



EY455/G  
14 AUG 1947

Palentine  
EASTERN

1947  
9 372 31

EY455/48/9

S. S. KOTA

Genoa  
37

Dated 12 Aug  
Received 14 Aug

Last Paper.

~~EY206~~  
7452

References.

EY059/48/9.  
E 4421/84/31  
E 4559/84/31

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) 11P ✓ Aug 18  
Tel Genoa 59  
15 Aug  
Rome 22 Aug  
8) 11P ✓ 18 Aug

(Action completed.)

at 13.

(Index.)

W.H.

Next Paper.

(Minutes.)

This telegram was discussed at a meeting of the Shipping Panel on 15th August, when it was decided to defer any decision until after our meeting with Gasharimatos and Potomianovs. Ministry of Transport will make enquiries about Peninsular Mediterranean committee in the mean time.  
Telegram to Genoa accordingly.  
15/8

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Reference: FO 371 61822

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14 AUG 1947

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No. 1.

FROM GENOA TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

His Majesty's Consul-General.  
No. 37. D. 9.50 a.m. 13th August, 1947.  
12th August, 1947. R. 12.05 p.m. 13th August, 1947.

Repeated to Rome (Saving).

3 3 3

SECRET.

Your telegram No. 57.

Lloyds senior surveyor has personally inspected vessel with member of my staff and reports that the wood between the deck has been removed but that beams and other steel work appertaining to that deck are still in place, though the owner assures us they too will be removed before the vessel leaves Genoa, delay in doing so being due to negotiations over price asked for by local firm for undertaking work. Installation of eight latrines is not being carried out and what work is being done does not suggest vessel is being converted to illegal traffic. Lloyds surveyor definitely confirms this impression but does not exclude the possibility of such having been in mind earlier on. Cabin accommodation maximum capacity 12 [gp. undec: ?passengers].

2. Owner has produced copy of letter sent by him on May 28th to Peninsular [sic] Mediterranean Conference London offering vessel for Mediterranean interport hire also copies of correspondence with accepted Marseilles agents on the subject of freights for Mediterranean Levant ports to show he is in good faith and that charter or sale of vessel for illegal Jewish immigration never entered his mind. Rumours of August sailing from Marseilles are presumably attributable to those negotiations.

3. In spite of my telegrams Nos. 25 and 26 (which were based on information from now somewhat discredited source), I do not think vessel need be further held under suspicion and would suggest lifting arrest. As safeguard vessel will be inspected again by Lloyds surveyor before she leaves Genoa and full details of cargo, passengers and destination reported to you. Gasparinatos and Potamianos are leaving for London for interview with you.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat].

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Registry  
No. E 7455/48/0

J.E.C.

Top Secret.  
Secret.  
Confidential.  
Restricted.  
Open.

Draft.

~~GENA~~

Telegram.

No. 59

(Date) Aug 15

Repeat to:—

Rome (Italy) No 252511.

~~En Clair.~~

Code.

Cypher.

Distribution:—

Departmental No. 1

Copies to:—

~~I. I. R.~~

F.O.,

Despatched 10 30 AM. 194 . 17/6

Confidential

your telegram no. 37 [of  
12th August: Jewish illegal  
immigration]

As our men are coming  
to London we intend to  
defer decision until after  
our meeting with them.

*[Signature]*  
15/8

4

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3149 Wt. 26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

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(Confidential)  
Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No. 1.

5

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO GENOA.

No. 59.

D. 10.50 a.m. 17th August, 1947.

15th August, 1947.

Repeated to Rome No. 252 Saving.

3 3 3

CONFIDENTIAL.

Your telegram No. 57 [of 12th August:  
Jewish illegal immigration].

As owners are coming to London we intend  
to defer decision until after our meeting  
with them.

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E

E 7481

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E 7461/48/31

FROM

Embassy

No.

Dated

Paris

Received in Registry

11 Aug 1947

President Warfield

Copy of broadcast with 6 cassette messages from G. G. Campbell, Paris dated Aug 11,

giving record of various stops in the case of the "President Warfield"

Last Paper

7415

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Minutes.)

<sup>2/2/48</sup>  
News Dept.

Mr Rennie, Infn. Policy Dept. 2/2/48

J. S. Quinn  
Aug 15

This paper was held by News Department for background information, after checking with Information Policy Dept. that they had their own copy. It proved most useful.

Shaw  
(P. R. H. H. H.) 2/2/48

J  
3/10

(Action completed)

G. L. H. 2/10

(Index)

R. H. H. 2/2/48

Next Paper

7482

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E 7  
BRITISH EMBASSY,  
PARIS.

11th August, 1947.

E 7467

*With the Compliments  
of His Majesty's Embassy.*

Eastern Department,  
Foreign Office, S.W.1.

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61822

72/628/47

British Embassy,  
Paris.

SECRET

Circular No. 44 to Consular Missions at:-

11th August, 1947.

Bordeaux     Nantes  
Lille        Nice  
Lyon         Rouen  
Marseilles   Strasbourg  
Toulouse.

Dear Consulate/Consulate-General,

PRESIDENT WARFIELD

Mainly because the situation changed so rapidly from day to day, it has not been possible until now to keep you generally informed about this unfortunate affair.

2. Attached is a record of the various stages in this case, which, though prepared for our own purposes, may be useful as background for discussions with the press. Please note, however, that the contents of the paragraphs numbered as follows should not in any circumstances be disclosed:-

No. 335 - Last three sentences from "We reminded...."

No. 332

No. 427

3. In general, it may be said that the French Government have failed in their specific undertakings to us in allowing the passengers to embark in a ship which they had agreed was not entitled to carry passengers and in failing to prevent the ship from sailing. Moreover, their administrative inefficiency has been such, e.g. in failing to check up on the visas, that it clearly amounts to a violation of the spirit of our previous understandings; and the sympathy shown to the illegal immigrants by many French authorities has outstandingly contributed to the blackening of our name in the French press.

4. As a result of our strong representations, the French Government may now appreciate how strongly we feel about what has happened; but it would be rash to count on a greater degree of co-operation in the future.

5. Unless further persuasion - to which French official action may contribute - is successful in inducing the passengers to disembark, the ships will sail for a further destination, which will in any case not be Cyprus or Palestine.

6. From a publicity point of view it is important to bring out the following:-

- (a) British Government actions have in every case been taken after close consultation with the French Government, and specific French Government undertakings to assist us have been broken.
- (b) The PRESIDENT WARFIELD is a classic case of the inhumanity of the traffic in Jewish refugees. This is illustrated by the fact that 4,500 Jews, including women and children, were sent in the PRESIDENT WARFIELD of a net tonnage of 2,600, whereas the net tonnage of the three ships in which they were returned was 13,600. Moreover the President Warfield held no certificate to carry passengers.

14 AUG 1947  
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- (c) The French authorities took no steps to interfere with the embarkation nor to check the visas.
- (d) At considerable risk of life and great discomfort, the passengers in the PRESIDENT WARFIELD have completely failed to attain their objective.

7. The information contained in the attached document should obviously be used in such a way that an official British source is not disclosed, and actual dates of letters should not be quoted.

8. Our policy in dealing with Resolutions sent to the Ambassador on the subject has been as a rule to disregard them. Individual letters, however, are being dealt with on their merits.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY.

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Mr. Tennant

- 10
1. The following is an account of the "President Warfield" episode.
  - No.109 2. H.E. wrote on 21st March to M. Bidault inviting "the French Government to take urgent and effective steps without delay to prevent further departures of illegal immigrants from French ports". He added that H.M.G. "confidently expect the full cooperation of the French Government in the spirit of the newly-signed alliance". The letter also requested that Anglo-French conversations should start immediately.
  - No.145 3. By Note of the 17th April to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we placed on record information given verbally by Mr. Ashley Clarke to the effect that the "President Warfield" was at Marseilles, and was destined for this traffic.
  - No.156 4. Marseilles reported to us that this vessel, which arrived at Marseilles on April 15th, left in ballast nominally for Alexandria on April 21st.  
24th April she arrived at La Spezia.
  - No.160 5. M. Teitgen replied on 24th April to H.E's letter of the 21st March stating that the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea of 31st May, 1929 and the French law of the 15th June 1933 on the same subject had always been applied in French ports. This control would now be tightened, in particular as regards the "President Warfield" (which M. Teitgen thought was still at Marseilles). Further, the French Government was instructing all prefects not to issue any French exit visas on collective passports without prior verification by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassies and Legations concerned of the validity of the visas of ultimate destination possessed by the would-be emigrants.
  - No.202 6. Rome telegram No.1082 of 12th May reports that the Italians produced photographs of the ship, which showed clearly that she was a river or lake vessel entirely unsuited for navigation on the open sea. The ship had arrived with a certificate of sea-worthiness issued by the bureau Veritas at New York (confirmed by Veritas at Marseilles), which restricted her to carry passengers in what is known as "R" (trade or coastal) traffic. She could thus be refused clearance for the open sea and required to return coastwise to her last port of call, i.e. Marseilles.
  - No.266 7. The "President Warfield" applied at Porto Venere for 150 tons of fuel oil on 26th May.
  - No.301 On 23rd May she was given only 8 tons of fuel oil.
  - No.270 8. H.M. Embassy wrote on the 29th May to M. Bousquet placing on record the main points of the Anglo-French discussions of the 12th May.  
(a) the measures promised in M. Teitgen's letter of the 24th April were recalled;  
(b) measures would be taken to prevent passage of clandestine immigrants through French zone of Germany.

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- No. 314** 9. By Note of 14th June we informed Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the "President Warfield" had now left the port of Spezia (it actually left on the 12th June). We pointed out that owing to the co-operation of the Italian authorities this vessel had been held up at Spezia for some weeks (since 26th April) and had been limited by the Italian authorities to coastwise movement on account of the nature of her certificate of sea-worthiness. We informed the Ministry that H.M.G. attached the very highest importance to stopping this ship, which had the largest capacity of any vessel at present engaged in the illegal immigration traffic to Palestine, and we urged that the French Government use their utmost endeavours to take effective action to hold her and to obstruct her further movement.
- No. 322** 10. By semi-official letter we informed the Ministry that the "President Warfield" arrived at Port de Bouc on the 14th June.
- No. 353** 11. On 16th June we were able to telegraph to the F.O. a verbal statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the French Merchant Marine authorities had taken immediate steps to hold the vessel at Port de Bouc, that they had already indications that arrangements on board for safety of life at sea were unsatisfactory and that they had also noted that her certificate of sea-worthiness was valid only for coastwise traffic.
- No. 335** 12. By semi-official letter of the 18th June we informed the Ministry of a report from H.M.C.G. Marseilles, to the effect that the Prefecture at Marseilles informed H.M.C.G. on the 16th June that the local Inscription Maritime had been instructed to prevent the departure of the "President Warfield" if possible. The Prefecture had instructed the Commissariat to watch out for any possible embarkation. We expressed our concern on hearing that the vessel had moved on the 16th June to Caronte for bunkers, and added that needless to say we hoped most strongly that no bunkers would be granted to her. The Ministry had undertaken immediately to take steps to ensure that all ports in the South of France, and in particular Sète, were informed that she might move from Caronte at any moment, and should be instructed to hold her and prevent any embarkation. We reminded the Ministry of the co-operation which we had received from the Italian authorities who, after delaying the vessel for a considerable time had her shadowed when she left Porto Venere by an Italian warship until a British warship was able to take over. We naturally hoped that we should be able to count on the French Navy for similar co-operation if the vessel should succeed in sailing. (The Ministry took up this request for an escort from the French Navy with M. Bidault, but nothing came of it.)
- No. 332** 13. By semi-official letter of the 19th June we informed the Ministry that H.M. Destroyer "Brissenden" was due off Marseilles on the 20th June to take over from the French escort, which we trusted the French Government would have been able to arrange pending the arrival of the "Brissenden".
- No. 359A** 14. M. Bousquet wrote to Mr. Ashley Clarke on the 26th June giving his agreement to a translation of Mr. Ashley Clarke's letter of the 29th May which was slightly/

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slightly different from the original (see document 398).

No.366

15. By Note of the 28th June to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs we expressed concern of His Majesty's Government on learning that "President Warfield" had received 315 tons of oil bunkers from the French firm "Compagnie Française de Raffinage la Mede" and that the vessel's Veritas certificate had been amended as follows "permission granted to proceed to Black Sea without freight or passengers and in fine weather". We pointed out that this appeared highly suspicious and asked that the French Government take steps to prevent the vessel from leaving at any rate until it had been possible to ascertain the true facts concerning her destination and voyage.

No.369

16. On 27th June, Mr. Bevin wrote to M. Bidault reminding him that he had raised with him during their stay in Moscow the question of Jewish illegal immigration and referring to the subsequent Anglo-French discussions. He referred in particular to the "President Warfield" which had an estimated capacity of 2,000. He said that the arrival of this number of illegal immigrants in Palestine would gravely endanger the peace of that country and of the Middle East. He asked that M. Bidault give his most sympathetic consideration to the representations which he had received from this Embassy with regard to the control of this vessel.

No.380

17. On the 5th July we wrote a semi-official letter to the Ministry referring to Mr. Bevin's letter and pointing out that when the clause "in fine weather" is included in certificates of sea-worthiness issued in the United Kingdom, a harbour master has the power to forbid sailing if he thinks that the weather is insufficiently fine. We pointed out that this gave the French authorities unlimited possibilities of preventing the ship from sailing even in ballast on the pretext of unfavourable weather forecasts.

No.597

18. By Note of the 10th July we informed the Ministry of our information to the effect that on the 9th July at 16.00 hours the "President Warfield" left Port de Bouc for Sète where she began embarking several thousand passengers. H.M.C.G. Marseilles had protested to the Préfet of the department of Hérault and to the local Inscription Maritime asking that the vessel should be prevented from leaving. We asked that the vessel should be held and that such passengers as might have been embarked should at once be removed.

No.403

19. Our telegram No.67 to Marseilles reports that on the 10th July we immediately protested most strongly to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who informed us that as a result of instructions to local authorities the vessel was held and the passengers would be forced to disembark. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed us that they and the Ministry of Transport had in mind that since the vessel's clearance certificate was limited to fine weather with no passengers she could not legally embark passengers.

No.144

20. During the night of the 10th and the 11th although the Inscription Maritime of Sète on instructions from the Inscription Maritime of Marseilles had placed guards on the quay to prevent the vessel from casting off, she cut her ropes and sailed.

(We/

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(We have had no explanation as to why passengers were allowed to board the vessel at all, nor why they were not immediately made to disembark).

No.407 21. On the 12th July Mr. Bevin again wrote to M. Bidault expressing his dismay at this news. He referred to the alliance between our two countries and the fact that the Palestine problem was subjudice at the United Nations. He asked what would be the feelings of the French Government if His Majesty's Government should facilitate the arrival in some territory for which the French Government were responsible of a number of elements calculated to disturb the peace there.

(In this connection it is interesting to note that Palestine reported - see document 264 - that on the 22nd May a total of 242 terrorists were known to have entered Palestine as illegal immigrants). Mr. Bevin said that in the circumstances "I must protest most strongly against the facilities which have been granted to the "President Warfield" and I request that the French Government should readmit her to France with all the passengers on board as soon as arrangements can be made to cause the "President Warfield" to return."

No.408 22. On 12th July Mr. Bevin informed M. Bidault verbally that we intended to make an example of this ship by obliging her to return to a French port with all her passengers, and he counted on the French to cooperate by receiving her back and disembarking the passengers. M. Bidault agreed to this.

No.409 On the same day Mr. Bevin saw M. Ramadier who was less forthcoming, but undertook to make an enquiry into the departure of the vessel.

No.427 The Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed us on 16th July that M. Bidault had decided not to lay the requests contained in M. Bevin's letter of 12th July, before the Council of Ministers, but to take them up with the Prime Minister. The Ministry had now made it clear that M. Bidault's undertaking could not be regarded as a decision by the French Government unless and until M. Ramadier confirmed it.

No.458 23. The Interior said on 21st July that the passengers were in possession of individual passports bearing valid Colombian visas issued by the Consul-General, Marseilles.

No.461 On 21st July M. Bousquet informed H.M. Minister that as the immigrants had left with individual passports bearing valid Colombian visas, the French Government would ask His Majesty's Government to arrange for the immediate onward journey to Colombia after refuelling at Villefranche.

No.468 We learnt eventually on 22nd July from Colombian Counsellor that the Jewish organisation OSE (Organisation de Secours Aux Enfants), which was responsible for embarkation on the "President Warfield" asked the Préfet of the Rhône for individual travel documents for whole party and presented document purporting to come from Colombian Consulate at Marseilles, stating that visas for Colombia would be granted. Préfet referred to Ministry of the Interior, who authorised issue of travel documents. Colombian Consulate neither gave the documents presented by OSE to Préfet nor issued any visas. (Only 132 have been granted by him since 1st January). Consequently document and visas were forged. Colombian Government had no intention/

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intention of admitting these Jews to Colombia. Colombian Embassy had officially requested the French Government to make an investigation.

NO. 490

24. On 24th July after personal intervention of H.E. Council of Ministers decided that the three British transports would be admitted to a French port, though no measures would be taken to oblige the passengers to land, though preparations would be made to feed and care for them if they do land.

25. The following publicity points might be born in mind:-

(a) Reference to the U.N.O. resolution requesting all governments and peoples to refrain pending action by the General Assembly on the report of the Special Committee on Palestine, from the threat or use of force or any other action which might create an atmosphere prejudicial to an early settlement of the question of Palestine (Mr. Bevin's letter of the 27th June to M. Bidault).

(b) Inhumanity of shipping 4500 souls including women and children in a lake or river vessel with a certificate valid only for a journey in fine weather and with no passengers; inhumanity, which is illustrated by the fact that even under over-crowded conditions of troop transports in war time a ship like the "President Warfield" would only have carried 700 men at the most. Again the "Queen Elizabeth" carries only half the number of passengers which the "President Warfield" carried, and then with ample life-saving equipment. Further, to bring these passengers back to France we have provided three ships, each of which is larger than the "President Warfield".

G.A. CROSSLEY

5th August, 1947.

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Palestine

EY490 / G

5 AUG 1947

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EY490 / 48/C

Mr Balfour  
Wilson

4471

Dated 14 Aug  
Received 15 Aug

Possibility of returning  
illegal immigrants from  
Prisoner Warfield to  
British zone of Germany.

Last Paper.

EY488

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

SJIP 18 Aug

TEJ Wilson 8081

16 Aug

SJIP

18 Aug

(Action completed.)

25 20/18

(Index.)

14/18

Next Paper.

(Minutes.)

This consideration has been present  
in everyone's mind. The S/S has  
said at a meeting on the subject  
that he would expect a  
considerable haul from the States  
as the result of a decision to  
send these Jews to Hamburg.

But

(a) we cannot leave the transports  
indefinitely at Port de Bouc for  
practical reasons

(b) the British zone is the only  
place under our jurisdiction outside  
Cyprus and Palestine where we  
have sufficient accommodation

(c) the decision gives us a  
last

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16  
last chance to get the Jews off.  
The decision therefore seems  
unavoidable


NA Dept.

Mr. Beins  
Aug 15  
(BEITH)

W.M. Beins  
15/8

While fully admitting the force of  
Mr Beith's arguments, I feel that  
nevertheless we must take Sir A.  
Balfour's advice.

Our action would be  
presented to the sentimental U.S. public  
by the full resources of Zionist  
propaganda as a brutal, back to  
Belsen outrage, a every woolly liberal  
Congressman seeking reelection would  
leap into the fray. It should have  
thought that we simply could not  
afford to risk even the possibility  
of this at the present time

  
E. S. Randall 15/8

Sir O. Sargent has been  
consulted, and has ruled that the  
plan must be put through despite  
its probable repercussions in the United  
States. I submit a draft to Washington.

H.B. Beins 16/8

Initialed by Mr. Wright  
and sent. H.B. 16/8

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EY490

17

15 AUG 1947

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

Cypher/OTP

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Balfour  
No. 4471

D. 9.19 p.m. 14th August 1947.  
R. 3.30 a.m. 15th August 1947.

14th August 1947.

Repeated to Jerusalem.

V V V

IMPORTANT.

SECRET.

Palestine.

It has been suggested here that consideration is being given in London to the possibility of returning illegal immigrants from the President Warfield to the British zone of Germany.

2. I do not know whether there is any foundation whatever for this suggestion. But I feel bound to point out that the forcible return of these people to the country which was so recently the scene of the worst anti-semitic atrocities would almost certainly cause a wave of American indignation, spreading considerably beyond the normal circle of Zionist agitators.

3. Whilst reluctant to add further difficulties to a complex problem I think it right to enter a caveat against possible action which might have unfavourable repercussions at a delicate stage of Angle-American relations.

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AUG 17

Registry No. E7490/48/G

Top Secret  
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Draft.

Telegram. ~~Washington~~  
No. 4281  
(Date) Aug 16<sup>th</sup>

Repeat to:—  
Jerusalem

H. B. Bealey  
14/8

~~En Clair.~~  
~~Code.~~  
Cypher.

Distribution:—  
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Copies to:—  
I I P

F. O.,

18

14/8/1947

Despatched 9 25 P M.

**IMMEDIATE SECRET**

Your telegram No. 4471 and my telegram No. 2355 to Berlin. Palestine

From the moment at which the refoulement of the President Warfield's passengers was first considered, I have ~~not lost sight of the~~ <sup>and fully and constantly</sup> in probable repercussions of our policy in the United States. This was of course taken into account when we reached the decision conveyed in my telegram under reference to Berlin, but that decision has again been examined in the light of your telegram No. 4471.

2. The fact is that we have no alternative but to send these people to the British Zone. If we were to take them to Cyprus now, we should have suffered a major defeat in our ~~our~~ campaign against the traffic in illegal immigrants, the consequences of which might be intolerable for the Palestine Government. We cannot leave them indefinitely on the transports at Port de Bouc. The only territory under British jurisdiction in which accommodation is now available and to which it is politically possible to send them is the British Zone of Germany.

3. Everything possible will be done to mitigate the effect of this decision upon public/

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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public opinion in the United States and elsewhere. In particular, we shall do our best to retain the initiative on the publicity fronts, by keeping our decision secret until we are ready to announce it in our own terms. The text of the communiqué, which we propose to issue 48 hours before the convoy leaves Port de Bouc will be telegraphed to you, if possible in time for you to comment on <sup>its</sup> ~~these~~ terms.

54. As you will see from my telegram under reference to Berlin, there is still a chance that the Jewish Agency, who will be approached simultaneously with the release of the communiqué, may agree to co-operate in persuading the passengers to land at Port de Bouc. Even if they ~~will~~ sail to ~~Hamburg~~ there is <sup>the</sup> further possibility that the French Government may agree to receive them across the land frontier from the British Zone, which would thus not be their final destination.

~~NOTE~~  
16.8

4. One argument which will be used in the communiqué, and which you will no doubt wish to emphasize in your supporting publicity, is that these illegal immigrants have been offered hospitality in France, and that if they go to Hamburg they will do so by their own choice.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61822

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E.7490/48/G.

Secret.

Cypher/OTP.

DEPARTMENTAL NO.2.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO WASHINGTON.

No. 8281.

D. 9.25 p.m. 16th August, 1947.

16th August, 1947.

Repeated to Jerusalem.

IMMEDIATE.

SECRET.

Your telegram No.4471 and my telegram No.2385 to Berlin.

Palestine.

From the moment at which the refoulement of the President Warfield's passengers was first considered, I have had fully and constantly in mind the probable repercussions of our policy in the United States. This was of course taken into account when we reached the decision conveyed in my telegram under reference to Berlin, but that decision has again been examined in the light of your telegram No.4471.

2. The fact is that we have no alternative but to send these people to the British Zone. If we were to take them to Cyprus now, we should have suffered a major defeat in our campaign against the traffic in illegal immigrants, the consequences of which might be intolerable for the Palestine Government. We cannot leave them indefinitely on the transports at Port de Bouc. The only territory under British jurisdiction in which accommodation is now available and to which it is politically possible to send them is the British Zone of Germany.

3. Everything possible will be done to mitigate the effect of this decision upon public opinion in the United States and elsewhere. In particular, we shall do our best to retain the initiative on the publicity front, by keeping our decision secret until we are ready to announce it in our own terms. The text of the communiqué, which we propose to issue 48 hours before the convey leaves Port de Bouc will be telegraphed to you, if possible in time for you to comment on its terms.

4. One argument which will be used in the communiqué, and which you will no doubt wish to emphasise in your supporting publicity, is that these illegal immigrants have been offered hospitality in France, and that if they go to Hamburg they will do so by their own choice.

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 51822

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- 2 -

5. As you will see from my telegram under reference to Berlin, there is still a chance that the Jewish Agency, who will be approached simultaneously with the release of the communiqué, may agree to co-operate in persuading the passengers to land at Pert de Bouc. Even if they sail to Hamburg there is the further possibility that the French Government may agree to receive them across the land frontier from the British Zone, which would thus not be their final destination.

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Reference:

FO

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61822



18 AUG 1947

EY490/

p.w.

22

INWARD TELEGRAM

Cypher (C.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 14th August, 1947.  
E. 14th " " 20.30 hrs.

IMMEDIATE  
No. 1562 Secret.

Following for Trafford Smith from Stewart. Begins.

It may be of interest to you to know that a local Jewish source, whom we have reason to suppose is favourably disposed, has asked whether it would not be possible for illegal immigrants from the PRESIDENT WARFIELD to be offered asylum in the United Kingdom. His motive appeared to be desire to stress the kudos and appreciation which France is now getting throughout the world as a result of her much advertised humanitarianism in this matter and to indicate the effect on world opinion and increase in prestige of H.M.G. which might be expected to follow a gesture of this nature. He was, of course, given non-committal reply.

We assume that full consideration has already been given to the possibility mentioned but I think you should be appraised of this approach, which has been made privately and, as far as we can judge, in a helpful and disinterested spirit. Unless acceptance in U.K. already decided impracticable or undesirable, a final offer to the refugees to choose between U.K. and other alternative destination might serve to emphasize the absence of any condemnation of the refugees themselves as opposed to those who organise illegal traffic.

Copy sent to:-

Foreign Office

Colonial Offices

- Mr. G.W. Baxter.
- Mr. Keith.
- Commander Bransford.

JB Ang 19

in sep

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Reference:

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61822

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The United States Ambassador telephoned this morning to say that he had received a telegram from the State Department about the removal of the Jewish refugees from Port du Bous to Germany. The telegram indicated that our action was causing great disturbance in the United States and that protests were piling up in the State Department. The United States Government were afraid that the British position in the United States might be seriously prejudiced.

Secondly Mr. Douglas said that General Clay, who is in London, thought that our action was not strictly in accordance with the Bi-zonal Agreement. To this I demurred.

I told Mr. Douglas that, as the ships had sailed from France, I did not see what possibility there could be of alternative action. However, I would certainly have the situation examined in the light of his representations.

(Roger Makins)  
25th August, 1947.

*Top copy sent  
to Mr Wright for action*

*Private Secretary*

*Spoken to Mr Wright & Mr Makins,  
who gave Mr Douglas the latest  
information JB Aug 25*

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Reference:

**FO**

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I propose to tell the United States Ambassador that we had a message from the State Department yesterday on this question and give him the gist of the reply in Washington telegram No. 8575.

I will add that we have today asked the French officially to take the Jews into France from the British Zone on their arrival there and that this approach will be made public in the papers tomorrow.

(Roger Makins)

23rd August, 1947.

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Reference:

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61822

224

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E 7499 25

16 AUG 1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E 7499/48/31

FROM

Embassy

No.

Paris

Dated

11 Aug

Received in Registry

16 -

President Waqfald

transmit report compiled by British Ambulance in Palestine based on information obtained from scavengers of the President Waqfald.

Last Paper

7490

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Minutes.)

This is very interesting. I have asked Mr. Higham (c.o.) to let us have further details on para. 2, which might be useful for propaganda purposes.

J. E. Cable

(J. E. CABLE)

18/8

J.D. Aug 18

Western Dept.

12/20/8

(Action completed)

J. Emb 20/8

(Index)

22/8/48

Next Paper

71-01

33538

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Reference: FO

371

61822





Extraits d'un rapport des autorités britanniques en Palestine au sujet des informations obtenues des passagers du "PRESIDENT WARFIELD"

1. Les passagers étaient d'une façon générale originaires de l'Europe du Nord et de l'Est.
2. Certains passagers avaient déjà été en Palestine.
3. L'âge moyen des passagers était de 25 ans environs. Beaucoup d'entre eux étaient instruits et appartenaient à la petite classe moyenne. Il y avait également un certain nombre d'artisans. Il y avait une particulièrement haute proportion d'enfants dont beaucoup étaient sans famille et dont les parents devaient "les rejoindre plus tard".
4. Les bagages donnaient la preuve d'une organisation détaillée derrière l'immigration. Chaque adulte transportait un vrai sac de voyage autour duquel étaient uniformément attachées deux ou trois couvertures de l'armée américaine. Le sac de voyage contenait un ou plusieurs costumes, des chaussures et autres nécessaires, le tout presque neuf et de bonne qualité. L'équipement donnait l'impression d'avoir été distribué plutôt qu'assemblé au hasard.
5. Il y avait trois routes principales suivies par les passagers jusqu'au zones d'attente autour de Marseille.
  - (a) par trains spéciaux à travers l'Europe depuis l'Est.
  - (b) par convois routiers pour les voyages plus courts particulièrement depuis l'Europe du Nord et du Nord Ouest.
  - (c) Par voyages en train individuels depuis les divers centres de transit tels que le Quartier Général Sioniste de l'Avenue de la Grande Armée (Etoile) à Paris. Dans ce cas le centre de transit fournissait aux juifs les billets de chemin de fer et leur donnait l'adresse d'un centre auquel ils devaient se rendre à leur arrivée à Marseille.

Dans le cas d'envoi d'importants groupes de juifs partant ensemble de camps de personnes déplacées en se dispense des formalités de billets et le voyage est organisé d'une façon plus militaire avec des billets collectifs: une contremarque a été trouvé pour confirmer ceci.
6. Quelques uns des groupes de voyageurs, dont chacun était composé de 250 personnes environ, étaient escortés à travers la France par train. (Un train entier au moins changea de train à Toulouse qui était aussie un lieu de ralliement pour un certain nombre de Lithuaniens et à son arrivée à ou près de Marseille fut transbordé directement dans des camions).
7. Un certain nombre de français, y inclus plusieurs gendarmes particulièrement "polis et complaisants" assistèrent à l'embarquement sur le "President Werfield". Ceci prit environ 4 ou 5 heures et le Maire israélite de Sète en fut témoin. Celui-ci fut d'ailleurs connu pour avoir pris une large part dans l'organisation et la réalisation de l'opération.
8. Environ 10 minutes avant l'entrée dans la zone d'émigration du port de Sète chaque Juif reçut un "Etat-Civil" forgé et une carte d'identité sur lesquels les photographies et les descriptions n'avaient aucune ressemblance avec celui qui les portait. Ces documents furent distribués par paquets de 50 sans discrimination et furent ensuite ramassés par les chefs de groupes. Ceci semble avoir été fait pour que la Gendarmerie à l'entrée du port puisse au moins sauver les apparences. Un Juif dit: "Je n'avais même pas eu le temps de regarder la mienne, aussie vous pouvez penser combien j'ai été heureux qu'ils n'aient pas demandé mon nom".

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61822

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9. A ce moment il devint connu des Juifs à bord qu'il y avait quelques difficultés à quitter le port. Mais une fois de plus l'aide du maire de Sète fut très appréciée.

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Reference: **FO** 371 84822

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30

E 7501

1947

16 AUG 1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number

EY501/48/31

FROM

R. G. Thompson

No.

Frankfurt 244

Dated

11 Aug

Received in Registry

16 Aug

Jewish Activities in Germany

Rpts Frankfurt despatch 222 (EY501/48/31)  
New enclosed warning letter received, presumably  
from a Jewish source, indicating reprisals  
(against Jews now occurring in Britain)

Last Paper

7499

(Minutes.)

Copy m15

References

German (P.O.) Dept.

228/mc

20 Aug 27

(Print)

(How disposed of)

of letters m15  
Aug 27

(Action completed)

46/20/48

(Index)

22/21/48

Next Paper

7525

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Reference:

FO

371

61822

TS/1

SECRET



No. 244

British Consulate General,  
Frankfurt-am-Main.

E 7501

11th August, 1947.

16 AUG 1947

Sir,

With reference to my despatch No. 222 of 30th July 1947, I have the honour to report that I have received an anonymous warning letter presumably from a Jewish source, copy of which is enclosed herewith for your information.

2. This letter came through American Army Post Office No. 757, franked with an American stamp. I therefore showed the original for inspection to the American Security authorities, who have retained it as they state it was written on an American typewriter, and that they would institute investigations as to its origin, which they think may be the Jewish D.P. Camp at Zeilsheim.

3. I have also handed a copy of the Warning Letter to Brigadier Patrick, British Administrative Commandant, C.C.G., Frankfurt.

4. A copy of this despatch and enclosure has been forwarded to Mr. Steel, Political Division, Berlin.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

H.M. Consul General.

H.M. Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,  
Foreign Office,  
LONDON, S.W. 1.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61822

COPY

32

4 August 1947.

To the British Consul in Frankfurt.

You are being warned, that if your Government does not do anything about the riots now happening in the United Kingdom life will not be easy for any Britisher over in Germany. Also the threats being made by our organisations to kill one Britisher for one Jewish Patriot will be strictly carried out by us.

A Jew.

(Also an illegible signature in red pencil).

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Reference:

**FO**

**371**

**61822**

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227

1947

E

E 7526

PALESTINE

33  
AUG 1947

Registry Number } E7526/48/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No. *W. Huff Cooper*  
*Paris*

Dated } 813.  
Received in Registry } 16 Aug 1947  
18 - -

*French Journalist for Port de Bone Ship* W.S.  
D.B.  
*Information Officer, Abnaddes has suggested that a French journalist should be allowed to travel in one of the transport when they leave Port de Bone. I.O. troops is agreeable. Aircraft has in mind journalist named AUDIBERG. Embassy approve proposal, but would like also to send a British journalist. Also view of I.O.*

Last Paper.

75-25

References.

(Minutes.)  
*I think we should agree to this, but Audiberg and others should not be informed before communique is released. I submit draft telegram accordingly.*

*J. E. Cable*  
(J.E. CABLE)  
14/8

*See by Mr. Beith & sent*  
*J*  
17/8

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

*8/ 9.9. 20*  
*(under E75264/48/31)*  
*Aug. 20*

*2cl Paris 1862.*  
*19 Aug.*

*6/ 9.9. 20*  
*(under E75264/48/31)*

(Action completed.)

*J. E. Cable*  
8

(Index.)

*J. E. Cable*  
24/1/4

Next Paper.

75-33

32008 F.O.P.

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61822

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

E 34

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Duff Cooper  
No. 813

D. 10.00 a.m. 16th August 1947.  
R. 10.50 a.m. 16th August 1947.

16th August 1947.

V V V

E 7526

IMPORTANT.

CONFIDENTIAL.

AUG 1947

Illegal Jewish immigration.

Information Officer Marseilles has suggested that a French journalist should be allowed to travel in one of the transports when they leave Port-De-Bouc. Officer Commanding Troops is agreeable. Ashcroft has in mind a Marseilles journalist named Audiberg who is well known to us and who since the beginning has rendered great service by his objective reporting.

2. We approve this proposal since we can arrange for this journalist's stories to be widely published in France but we would like to send also a British journalist, perhaps a Reuter correspondent, as well to write stories for the British and world press since interest will undoubtedly revive if ships sail from Port-De-Bouc to another destination.

3. Could we have your views as seen as possible so that we can make the necessary arrangements?

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat].

18 AUG 1947

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Reference: FO 371 / 61822

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Registry  
No. E 7526/48/31

Top Secret.  
Secret.  
Confidential.  
Restricted.  
Open.

J.E.C.

OUT FILE

F.O., 35

19/8 194  
Despatched 3.40 p M.

Draft.  
PARIS

~~Immediate~~  
~~Secret~~  
Confidential

Telegram.  
No. 1862  
(Date) Aug 19

Repeat to :-

[of 16<sup>th</sup> August: your telegram no. 813  
immigration] Jewish illegal

(C.O. concn)

We agree to your proposal,  
provided that journalists concerned  
are not informed before release  
of official communiqué about  
departure of ships.

10 Aug 19

En Clair.  
Code.  
Cypher.

[copy sent to Sec

Distribution :-

Departmental NO. 1

Copies to :-

I.I.P.

10 Aug 19

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

9148 Wt. 26469/137 50m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

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E 7526/48/31

Confidential

Cypher/OTP

CUT FILE

36

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO PARIS

No.1862

D. 3.40 p.m. 19th August, 1947

19th August, 1947

.....  
IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

Your telegram No.813 [of 16th August:  
Jewish illegal immigration].

We agree to your proposal; provided that  
journalists concerned are not informed about  
departure of ships before release of official  
communiqué.

[Copy sent Middle East Secretariat].

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Reference:

FO

371

61822

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E

E 7533

1947

AUG 1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E 7533/48/31

FROM

Oslo

No.

Roval

Dated

369/16/47

Received in Registry

4 Aug 18

Illegal Immigration, Austria to Italy.

Transmit correspondence between Mr Wood and Count J. Xoppi, re movement of Jews into Italy from Austria.

Last Paper

7526

References

26/8  
4/9

(Print)

(How disposed of)

s/ Stephen P.O.  
Robertson MIS.  
Coordinated. bob off.

Aug 28

of Vienna no. 4801.  
ref. Sept 22

confidential

(Action completed)

[Signature] 6/9

(Index)

[Signature] 27/11/48

Next Paper

7535

(Minutes.)

Copies to: a.o. } usual  
                  N.I. 5 } names  
                  Labour Office }

Please see E 6837/48/6 and E 6589/48/6.

and  
Western Dept. (Italian Section)  
German (Pol.) Dept.

[Signature] (J-E-CABLE) 20/8

May copies go to Vienna ref. (then lib. 684?)

P.A. Thompson 1:9

JB Aug 21

copy under 1/2 to Vienna  
ref. the telegram mentioned above  
[Signature] 2/9

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Reference: FO 371 61822

369/16/47

E 7533

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Eastern Department,  
Foreign Office, S.W.1.

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With the compliments of the Chancery,  
ROME.

Rome.

August 9th 1947.

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Reference:

**FO**

371

61822

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369/16/47

August 9th 1947.

39

Thank you for your further letter of August 5th about the alleged transit of Jews through the British Zone of Austria. (You will now have received my letter No. 369/15/47 of the 7th August referring to your previous letter on this subject.)

2. I rather think that you have been misinformed about the responsibility of the British Troops in Austria for the crossing into Italy of the parties of Jews mentioned in your letter.

3. The British zone ends at Picco dei Tre Signori. The Gerlos pass leads up to the frontier at some distance to the west of this point and from your description of the route - HALLEIN-SAALFELDEN-MITTERSILL Valley - GERLOS - it would appear that the refugees did not leave the American zone until they entered Italy at or somewhere near Passo dei Tauri.

4. This is the route about which we have been hearing so much recently, and we are disturbed to find that it is being used so continuously. No doubt you will take the matter up with the United States authorities.

J.G. Ward.

Count Vittorio Zoppi,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
Palazzo Chigi.  
ROME.

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Reference:

FO

371

61822

57

TRANSLATION.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

40

24852/378

ROME, 5th August 1947.

Dear Ward,

The competent authorities have received information from Austria that about 800 Jews will leave Hallein in American lorries on 22nd and 23rd of this month with the intention of entering Italy illegally.

The route which will be taken is as follows: Saalfelden-Ittersl, Gerlos Pass and Val Pusteria.

They will proceed on foot in groups of ten for the final stage of the journey.

Further departures will take place on 26th August and yet more are anticipated very soon after this date.

I wish to draw your attention to this intensification of Jewish illegal entry into Italy, which appears to be facilitated by various authorities in Germany and Austria and which is taking place in that particular zone of the Italo-Austrian frontier which is under the immediate supervision of the British Occupation Forces in Austria.

Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) V. ZOPPI.

Signor J.G. Ward,  
Counsellor of the British Embassy,  
ROME.

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Reference: FO 371/61822

158

COPY.

The British Embassy,  
ROME.

41

7th August 1947.

369/15/47

CONFIDENTIAL.

Dear Zoppi,

In your letter DGAP/Uff.1 of the 18th July you were good enough to give me some further information from Italian official sources about the illegal passage of Jews from Austria into Italy. I did not fail to pass this information on to London and to the British Authorities in Austria. The latter have now informed us that enquiries made on the ground have failed to substantiate the report in your letter that parties of Jews were attempting to cross into Italy from the British Zone of Austria. The British-Austrian frontier control services have no evidence of movements of Jews in the East Tyrol and the Italian authorities at San Candido, with whom the British Authorities are in constant touch, deny any knowledge of crossings or ~~in constant touch, deny any knowledge of crossings or~~ attempted crossings by Jews from the British Zone.

The British Authorities in Austria would be interested to know from what source the report of crossings from the British Zone was obtained. All their information shows that the actual crossing points are situated on the boundaries between Italy and the other co-terminous zones. The most important of the crossing points is believed to be the Krimmel Pass leading into the Valle Aurina.

J.G. Ward,

Count V. Zoppi,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
Palazzo Chigi,  
ROME.

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61822

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1459

TRANSLATION OF LETTER FROM MINISTER ZOPPI TO MR WARD DATED  
18TH JULY 1947.

42

Dear Ward,

With reference to the continual influx of clandestine Jews across our northern frontier, I pass you the following item of information, recently supplied by our competent authorities:-

Groups organised by the Jews are making almost daily attempts to cross the frontier in the zone between FORTEZZA and SAN CANDIDO, and more precisely at the following points:-

PASSO STALLE (ATERSELVA)  
VALLE CASIER(PREDO I)  
MONT'ELMO E SAN SILVESTRO (SAN CANDIDO)

Crossings are generally undertaken by groups of about thirty, some of which are armed.

Six thousand refugees from Yugoslavian territory are now allegedly in the British occupation zone. The majority of the Jews, on the other hand, come from the Russian zone.

A certain SCHOKY, residing in Merano, is allegedly engaged in the movement of these Jews. SCHOKY occasionally wears American uniform. He is being watched.

From the interrogation of a certain number of the Jews who have clandestinely crossed the frontier lately, the following facts are elicited:-

"For some months Jews resident in areas occupied by the Russian Army (Germany, Austria, Hungary and Rumania), or in zones under the direct influence of the Soviet Army (Yugoslavia, Poland, Czechoslovakia), have been trying to reach the American occupation zone in order to put themselves under the care of organisations set up in America for the protection of Jewish refugees.

The motive for this migration is the fact that Jewish property is generally confiscated or nationalised, and its owners sent to labour camps. In view of this state of affairs, and because they fear new pogroms, the Jewish communities favour migration towards territory occupied by American forces in Austria and in Germany.

Through various assistential (?) organisations, the emigrants are supplied with money, clothes and food, and are escorted by personnel in American uniform, bearing group movement orders to the assembly camps. A few of them journey along and unescorted, making use of military transport and bribing frontier authorities. In certain cases transport is effected in U.N.R.R.A. trains which are used more particularly to carry women and children.

In Austria the arrival point from the east is the Rothschild Hospital in VIENNA, from where individuals are drafted to the following camps:-

/BAD GASTEIN

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Reference:-  
**FO**  
371  
61822

43

BAD GASTEIN - SALZBURG - SAALFELDEN - HALLEIN  
(just set up)

HALL IN TIROL (for refugees from Jugoslavia)

Jewish refugees in the American zone enjoy complete liberty of movement in the area; they are under the protection of UNRRA. and are issued with "Stateless" identity documents.

Enrolment has recently begun for Jews who intend to travel to Austria or to the Argentine, on condition that they undertake to spend at least six months in the voluntary labour cause in order to secure the citizenship of the state to which they emigrate.

Identical arrangements are expected for other South American states.

The remainder of the refugees are awaiting their turn for entry to Palestine.

Because of the long waiting period, which proves unbearable, particularly to the younger refugees who are anxious to start life anew, a great number of them attempt to cross into Italy clandestinely. Having once got into Italy, they make for the ports of embarkation, or else try to merge themselves with the Italian population pending their definite disposal.

The crossings are facilitated by three factors:-

- (a) Complete liberty within the camps, because of which departures pass unnoticed.
- (b) The official blessing of the Austrian police, which considers every passing Jew as a reduction of the strain on the Austrian food situation.
- (c) The fact that no punishment is meted out by camp authorities to refugees returned to the camps by the frontier authorities.

Crossings are due to the summons of relatives who have already reached Italy in UNRRA. trains."

My kind regards, tc.....

ZOPPI.

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Reference:

FO

371

61822

6

E

E 7535

1947

44

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E 7535/48/31.

FROM

Blancney

No.

E. C. G.

Dated

Berlin

Received in Registry

189/163/47  
12 Aug  
18

Illegal Immigration to Sweden  
A few 40 others (E 5979/48/31) such as this  
have been aware for some time of attempts  
by some to emigrate illegally to Sweden.  
In this connection both the "Jewish Fishing  
School" and the Jewish Maritime Training  
School were closed down as suspect schools  
for illegal immigrants.

Last Paper

7533

References

26/8

(Print)

(How disposed of)

of Stockholm 4.266  
Blancney.  
of Higham E.O.  
Lovers M.I.5  
(Lovers) E 5979)  
aug 20  
opened 20/8

(Action completed)

G. J. M. 9/9

(Index)

22/8/48

Next Paper

7564

(Minutes.)

Copy to: Stockholm & Blancney  
Mr. Higham - E.O. } with copies of  
Mr. Schum M.I.5 } correspondence  
in ~~7533~~ E 5979

Berlin may be a little over-optimistic  
here. After all the "ULVA"  
did sail from Sweden and there  
are still suspect ships there.  
I suggest that we might ask  
M.I.5 about this at the next  
meeting of the Working Party.

J. E. Cable  
22/8

German (Pol) Dept. 22/8/48.

20 Aug 22

I agree with Mr. Cask's suggestions,  
especially in view of the fact that there  
will soon be 4500 additional &  
experienced exponents of the part

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45  
out of illegal immigration in our  
Zone soon.

Telliss 28/8m.

This letter was discussed by the  
Working Party on 3rd September. M.I.5  
gave it as their opinion that security  
precautions already taken in the British  
Zone were sufficient to prevent  
any large-scale departure. The Swedish  
authorities have, moreover, shown  
themselves more cooperative of late  
and Sweden is no longer a  
good point of ~~an~~ embarkation. For  
these reasons, the Working Party  
decided that no action was  
required.

German (Pol.) Dept. ✓ Jg/k.

  
3/9

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Reference:-

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Political Division,  
~~Headquarters,~~  
Control Commission for Germany,  
(British Element),  
E 7535 BERLIN, B.A.O.R.

12th August, 1947.

POL/89/163/47  
CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Eastern Department,

Please refer to your letter of 28th July (E 5979/48/31).

Our authorities in the Zone have been aware for some time of attempts by Jewish refugees to emigrate illegally to Sweden and other Baltic countries. In particular they were concerned at the establishment of a "Jewish Fishing School" at Hamburg and a "Jewish Maritime Training School" at Neustadt, both of which were suspected as channels for illegal emigration. In this connection you may have seen General Bishop's secret letter ZECO/PQ/164/01304/Sec G of 26th July to Sir Gilmour Jenkins. The Fishing School was closed down in November 1946 and deep sea activities formerly conducted at the Training School are now no longer permitted.

We are advised that, as a result of these and similar restrictive measures, the possibility of illegal emigration to Baltic countries has undoubtedly been lessened although it cannot be entirely discounted. The authorities consider that any large scale movement of illegal Jewish emigrants is in any case unlikely since there is no large concentration of would-be emigrants in the northern part of our Zone and illegal movement by the southern routes has always proved in the past to be much more popular.

While the possibility of some attempted emigration on the lines feared by the Swedish Government cannot be ruled out, we are inclined to think that the natural inclination

Eastern Department,  
FOREIGN OFFICE,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

1/2/47 of

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47

RECEIVED IN C.B.  
 16 AUG 1947  
 SENT TO DEPT.

of the emigrants themselves to move southward and the careful watch the British authorities are maintaining in this area will both militate against such a development.

Yours ever,

Chancery

23

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FO 371 / 61822

E7564/G

Palentine

BY TELETYPE

48

376

31

E7564/48/G

President Wafield

Marseilles  
1/41

Reports disembarkations.

Delivered 16 Aug  
Received 18 Aug

Last Paper.

E7490

(Minutes.)

I.I.P. being done

*J. G. Cable*  
(J.G. CABLE)  
19/8  
JB Aug 19

References.

E7411/48/G

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) 11 P 18 Aug

(Action completed.)

25 19/8

(Index.)

47

Next Paper.

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61822

E 10/10

EYSBY 49

Code R

DEPARTMENTAL No. 2.

FROM MARSEILLES TO FOREIGN OFFICE 18 AUG 1947

His Majesty's Consul-General

No: 111

16th August, 1947.

D. 5. 55 p.m. 16th August, 1947.

R. 8. 50 p.m. 16th August, 1947.

Repeated to Paris.

11111

RESTRICTED

Illegal Jewish immigration.

My telegram No. 140.

Two disembarkations today, otherwise nothing to report.

18 AUG 1947

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61822

50

Code/R

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2

FROM MARSEILLES TO FOREIGN OFFICE

His Majesty's Consul-General  
No. 140 D. 7.20 p.m. 15th August, 1947  
15th August, 1947 R. 9.30 p.m. 15th August, 1947

Repeated to Paris

ddddddd

IMMEDIATE

RESTRICTED

Illegal Jewish Immigration.

My telegram No. 137.

One sick woman disembarked today otherwise no  
developments.

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Group ..... *F3* .....

Class ..... *371* .....

Piece ..... *61822* .....

Following document(s) retained in the  
Department of origin under Section 3 (4)  
of the Public Records Act, 1958

*E7566/48/31*

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:-

**FO**

**371**

**61822**

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EY565 /G  
8 AUG 1947

Palestine  
EASTERN

51

377  
EY565 AB/C

Suspect shipping

Aug 18 - Aug 23

Weekly File

Dated 15 Aug  
Received 18 Aug

Last Paper.

EY564

References.

EY302/48/C

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8)11P 22 Aug

(Minutes.)

See within

1. Brussels 322 15 Aug.

*[Signature]* 17/8

2. Cairo 103 Saw 16 Aug

3. Marseilles 139 15 Aug.

*[Signature]* 25/8

(Action completed.)

25/19/3

(Index.)

*[Signature]*

Next Paper.

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E  
EY 565 52  
[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].

Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM BRUSSELS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Harrison.  
No. 322

D. 3.35 p.m. 15th August, 1947

15th August, 1947 R. 5.30 p.m. 15th August, 1947

Repeated to Jerusalem

.....  
My telegram No. 315. e/f

Weekly report.

No change.

Please repeat to Jerusalem as my telegram  
No. 15.

[Copies sent to Telegraph Section,  
Colonial Office for retransmission].

18 AUG 1947

Sent to Secy.

18 AUG 1947

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L p/w

EY565

Reclair

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1

53  
L

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Bowker  
No. 103 Saving  
13th August, 1947

R. 3.40 p.m. 16th August, 1947

addddd

Following from His Majesty's Consul-General  
Alexandria telegram No. 9 Secret, dated 11th August,  
1947.

Addressed Cairo reference despatch No. 33, repeated  
S.O.(I) Port Said.

Reference suspect weekly shipping report No. 13  
which arrived 9th August.

"Phoenix" arrived Alexandria 7th August and sailed  
10th August for Tripoli (Syria).



paper in Dept.  
11P ditto being done

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EYsb5

18 AUG 1947

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1.

54

FROM MARSEILLES TO PARIS

Mr. Kay  
No. 108

D. 7.20 p.m. 15th August 1947  
R. 9.25 p.m. 15th August 1947

15th August 1947  
Repeated to Foreign Office No. 159

cccccc

E 7525  
AUG 1947

SECRET

Please add the following to my weekly report on  
suspected shipping dated August 15th:

Albertina left Marseilles for Casablanca with  
50 tons cargo August 7th.

APP.

PIP being done

18 AUG 1947

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Reference:

FO

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<p>379 1947</p>	<p>Palestine</p>	<p>EY614 /G</p>
<p>EY614/48/C<sup>31</sup></p> <p>Mr Duff Cooper Paris 814 dated 18 Aug Received 19 Aug.</p>	<p>Destination of emigrants on <u>President</u> Warfield</p>	
<p>Last Paper. EY566</p>	<p>(Minutes.) Please see also E 7615</p>	
<p>References. EY488/48/C</p>	<p><i>Falves</i> (TELETYPE) 19/8</p>	
<p>(Print.)</p>	<p>Suggestion in para. 3 has been taken account of in instructions to Paris &amp; Marseilles</p>	
<p>(How disposed of.) 371P 22 Aug</p>	<p>JB Aug 20</p>	
<p>(Action completed.) 25/8</p>	<p>(Index.) <i>WJ</i></p>	
<p>Next Paper.</p>		

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E-7814

19 AUG 1947

Cypher/OTP.

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

56

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Duff Cooper  
No. 817.

August 18th, 1947.

D. 1.55 p.m. August 18th, 1947.  
R. 2.55 p.m. August 18th, 1947.

Repeated to Berlin  
Lubbecke  
Marseilles  
Jerusalem  
Washington  
C.-in-C. Mediterranean

JJJ

IMMEDIATE

(F.O. please pass to Berlin, Lubbecke, Jerusalem, Washington as my telegrams Nos. 121, 1, 32 and 177 respectively and to Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean.)

TOP SECRET

Your telegram No. 2385 to Berlin.

Jewish illegal immigration to Palestine.

You will realise that an announcement of decision to send immigrants back to Germany will produce violent hostile outburst in the press. I should be glad therefore of all details as to the actual arrangements which will be made for their reception in Germany for use with the press. For example I presume they will be kept together in camps but what degree of freedom will they have? More details that can be given even on such points as the provisioning of the ships en route to Hamburg will be useful in circumscribing speculation.

2. I have considered whether there would be advantage in making a final appeal to the French Government to assist in forcible disembarkation in Port de Bouc (or some other French Mediterranean port) with a careful definition of the extent to which French co-operation would be necessary. I remain convinced however that the French Government would not respond to such an appeal in a really helpful manner and I doubt whether their refusal would give us the advantage of placing on them a share of the odium for returning these immigrants to Hamburg.

3. It would nevertheless be desirable that when we are on the point of making our announcement I should be authorised to inform the French Government of what is intended and ask that when the Consul-General goes on board to make the communication to the immigrants he should be accompanied by one (repeat one) French official whose business it would be to emphasise once more that the immigrants will be welcome to disembark in France as free men.

[Copies sent to Telegraph Section Colonial Office for transmission to Jerusalem, to War Registry Admiralty for transmission to C-in-C Med. and to Message Control for transmission to Lubbecke.]

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61822

# OUTWARD TELEGRAM

57

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on]

E 7488/48/G

Top Secret

Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO BERLIN (MILITARY GOVERNOR) NO. 2385  
LUBBECKE (FOR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF)

16th August, 1947.

D. 8.10 p.m. 16th August, 1947

Repeated to Paris No.1844

Marseilles No.118

Washington No.8280

Jerusalem

Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean

Commander-in-Chief M.E.L.F.

} Immediate

MOST IMMEDIATE

TOP SECRET

Jewish illegal immigration to Palestine.

It has been decided that the three British transports which have been waiting at Port de Bouc to disembark the 4,500 Jewish illegal immigrants ex "President Warfield" cannot remain indefinitely in French waters if the Jews continue to refuse to disembark and the French authorities decline to co-operate in forcible disembarkation. The Cabinet have laid it down that these Jews shall in no circumstances be returned to Cyprus or Palestine and it is accordingly necessary for us to be ready to accommodate them in some territory under our jurisdiction. The Colonial Secretary has thoroughly investigated the possibilities of British colonial territories but informs me that there is no accommodation which could be ready in the near future, in any Colony. It has therefore been decided, after careful consideration, that in the event of final failure to secure disembarkation in the South of France the Jews should be sent to Hamburg and accommodated in the British Zone of Germany. I very much regret that in spite of previous assurances you should be called upon to accept these refugees, but I am reluctantly convinced that this is the only practicable course open to us.

2. I have not yet abandoned the hope that we may secure the disembarkation of these Jews in the South of France. The French Government are still prepared to accept

any

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61822

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any who volunteer to disembark. It is therefore proposed to make a final formal announcement to the illegal immigrants that they are to be sent to Hamburg if they maintain their refusal to land in France, and to give them 48 hours to think it over. Every effort will be made at that stage to enlist the help of responsible Jewish representatives in persuading the Jews to land and to spare themselves further confinement and suffering on a voyage to Northern European waters. Moreover I shall subsequently press the French Government to accept the Jews back by train from the British zone, if they have to be sent there. By that time there may be a greater number of volunteers whom we should in any case expect the French Government to accept in accordance with their existing offer.

3. You will be kept closely informed regarding further developments and in particular of the prospective place and date of disembarkation. Those who do not (repeat not) disembark are likely to sail from Port de Bouc before August 24th.

4. Our intention of pressing the French to receive the illegal immigrants by land from the British Zone must be kept secret for the present. Its revelation now would obviously reduce the chance of persuading them to disembark at Port de Bouc.

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1947

380

Palestine  
EASTERN

EY615 /G

18 AUG 1947

59

EY615 /48 /C

President warfield

Mr Kay  
Marseilles  
142  
Dated 18 Aug  
Received 19 Aug.

Last Paper.

EY614

(Minutes.)

Please see also E 7614

*Perle*  
(C.F.E. CABLE)

19/8

JB Aug 20

References.

EY488/48/C  
EY411/48/C

See within.

- 1. Marseilles 143
- 2. Marseilles 146

18 Aug  
19 Aug.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

3) 11P 22 Aug  
 7a) Marseilles 19 Aug  
 Rpt d Paris 1868  
 cin ched  
 Jerusalem  
 W/son 8437  
 Berlin 2414

8) 11P 22 Aug  
 7a) Paris 1869 19 Aug  
 Rpt d Marseilles 124

8) 11P 22 Aug

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

25/8

*W/A*

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61822



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Ted Whittles 128  
20 Aug  
Raid Paris 1880  
Wilson 8473  
Reelin 2430  
✓ checked  
Telusalam  
JHP 20 Aug

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Green  
EY615

60

19 AUG 1947

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No. 1.

FROM MARSEILLES TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Kay. D. 1.10 p.m. 18th August, 1947.  
No. 142.  
18th August, 1947. R. 4.45 p.m. 18th August, 1947.

Repeated to Paris.

3 3 3

IMMEDIATE.  
TOP SECRET.

Illegal Jewish immigration.

Your telegram No. 1866 to Paris and your telegram No. 120 to me.

2. Transports have only enough bunkers to take them to Gibraltar and can put to sea as soon as food supplies for the voyage have been put on board. As you know, American joint distribution committee have been supplying the Jews with food at Port de Bouc through the French Charity Organisation on a day to day basis which arrangement will presumably cease when imminent departure of the ships is announced. Food supplies can be purchased locally and enough for the voyage can be put on board in forty-eight hours. I assume that nothing should be ordered until we see the reactions of the Jews to the announcement mentioned in your paragraph 2. You are doubtless aware that H.M.S. Chevron carries 30,000 iron rations which were sent recently from Gibraltar for emergency use only with Admiralty sanction. These could be placed on board within four hours if necessary.

3. I suggest announcement should be confined to statement to that effect that it is made on behalf of His Majesty's Government and is: [Begins] that those who do not disembark at Port de Bouc within forty-eight hours will continue the journey in the same transports to Hamburg. [Ends]. It might be well to add whether they will be turned loose on arrival at Hamburg or whether they will be placed under constraint there. I consider the announcement should be made by Officer Commanding Troops in my presence and in the presence of representative of Prefecture Marseilles and of the Jewish Agency if you can persuade them to co-operate, please see my telegram No. 135. We here see no objection to publishing destination forthwith. Officer Commanding Troops considers that the Jews will welcome decision to send them to Hamburg. Moving of transports further out will render provisioning more difficult.

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RECEIVED  
18 AUG 1947

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- 2 -

4. You will appreciate that departure of convey is rendered urgent by the position of "Ocean Vigour" reported in paragraph 4 of my telegram No. 127. If she has not left by the end of this week officers and such of the crew as we have been unable to replace will walk off and the ship will be immobilised.

5. This telegram has been agreed with the Captain of H.M.S. Phebe and with Officer Commanding Troops.

6. Foreign Office repeat Immediate Berlin and Jerusalem.

[Repeated Immediate to Berlin and copies sent to Telegraph Section, Colonial Office for transmission to Jerusalem].

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Reference:

FO

371

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19 AUG 1947

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62

EYBIS C

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No. 1 Aug 1947

FROM MARSEILLES TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Kay. D. 8.10 p.m. 18th August, 1947.  
No. 145.

18th August, 1947. R. 11.45 p.m. 18th August, 1947.

Repeated to Paris.

3 3 3

IMMEDIATE.  
SECRET.

Illegal Jewish Immigration.

My telegram No. 142.

Partial hunger strike at 24 hours on  
"Runnymede Park" to-day. Exaggerated reports  
given to the press by Jewish Agency which have  
been denied by Ashcroft. Three disembarkations  
yesterday, none to-day.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat].

RECEIVED

19 AUG 1947

15

8) 11 P being done  
AP in Sept 1947

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EYBIS

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1.

63

FROM MARSEILLES TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Kay  
No. 146

D. 7.00 p.m. August 19th, 1947.

August 19th, 1947.

R. 9.15 p.m. August 19th, 1947.

Repeated to Paris

SSSSS

IMMEDIATE

SECRET

Illegal Jewish immigration.

My telegram No. 143.

A hunger strike was staged on three ships yesterday but passengers consumed private food stocks and have resumed normal attendance for meals to-day. Passengers in "Empire Rival" are more difficult than in the other two ships and strained tempers may lead to the necessity of disciplinary action. No disembarkations to-day.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat]

JB Aug 21  
HP being done.

AP in Dept. para ref attached.

20 AUG 1947

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry No.

Top Secret.  
~~SECRET~~  
~~SECRET~~  
Restricted.  
~~SECRET~~

F.O.,

August 1947

Despatched 9 30 P.M. 19/8

Draft.

Marseilles.

MOST IMMEDIATE

TOP SECRET

Telegram.

No. 123

(Date) Aug 19

Repeat to:—

Paris 1868 (most imm.)  
Cin. Pres.  
Jerusalem  
Washington in port 8437  
Berlin 2414

Your telegram No. 142 [of August 18th: Jewish illegal immigration].

~~Subject to any suggestions by you or H.M. Ambassador at Paris,~~ I shall be glad if you will adopt the following timing in regard to a final announcement of destination to the illegal immigrants:—

(a) Announcement on the lines suggested by you to be made by O.C. Troops in your presence. I agree that the French Government should be pressed to act as suggested in paragraph 3 of Paris telegram No. 817, but they should not be informed of decision until half an hour before time of general release. ~~owing to risk of leakage~~ They should then be urged to send their representative on board as soon as possible. As regards representative of Jewish Agency, see (c) below.

(b) Announcement to be made on board the transports at 11 a.m. B.S.T. on August 21st. Press will be informed simultaneously in London. ~~Unless you see objection you should also read out the communiqué contained in my telegram No. or such parts as appear suitable.~~

(c) Acting head of Jewish Agency offices in/

Copies to:—

I. I. P.

Please arrange for interpretation to be made in all necessary languages

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Reference: FO 371 61822

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and Jerusalem  
in London will be asked to call at ~~10~~ <sup>10.30</sup> a.m.

on August 21st at the Colonial Office and told  
every assistance in our power will be given to enable  
that ~~transport will be provided for their~~

representative to go to Port de Bouc in order  
to persuade the illegal immigrants to land.

(d) If disembarkation is not proceeding

~~by 11 p.m. BST on August 22nd~~ the  
transports should ~~then~~ leave Port de Bouc at 11 p.m. BST on August 22nd

for Gibraltar. Illegal immigrants will thus  
have 36 hours to think the matter over.

2. You may use your discretion in regard  
to details of victualling in consultation  
with O.C. Troops and Naval Commander.  
MTH

19.8.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

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EYBIS/48/9

*Green*

66

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Top Secret.

CYPHER/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO MARSEILLES

No. 123.

D: 9.30 p.m. 19th August, 1947.

19th August, 1947.

Repeated to:	Paris No. 1868,	} Most Immediate
	Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean,	
	Jerusalem,	
	Washington, No. 8137,	
	Berlin No. 2114	

@@@ @@@ @@@

MOST IMMEDIATE

TOP SECRET

Your telegram No. 142 [of August 18th: Jewish illegal immigration].

I shall be glad if you will adopt the following timing in regard to a final announcement of destination to the illegal immigrants:-

(a) Announcement on the lines suggested by you to be made by O.C. Troops in your presence. I agree that the French Government should be pressed to act as suggested in paragraph 3 of Paris telegram No. 817, but they should not be informed of decision until half an hour before time of general release. They should then be urged to send their representative on board as soon as possible. As regards representative of Jewish Agency, see (c) below.

(b) Announcement to be made on board the transports at 11 a.m. B.S.T. on August 21st. Please arrange for interpretation to be made in all necessary languages. Press will be informed simultaneously in London.

(c) Acting head of Jewish Agency offices in London and Jerusalem will be asked to call at 10.30 a.m. on August 21st and told that every assistance in our power will be given to enable their representative to go to Port de Bouc in order to persuade the illegal immigrants to land.

(d) If disembarkation is not proceeding the transports should leave Port de Bouc at 11 p.m. B.S.T. on August 22nd for Gibraltar. Illegal immigrants will thus have 36 hours to think the matter over.

2. You may use your discretion in regard to details of victualling in consultation with O.C. Troops and Naval Commander.

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry No.

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Draft.

Paris

Telegram.

No. 1869  
(Date) Aug 19<sup>th</sup>

Repeat to :-

Marseilles  
124

Co. agree

Mrs. Ginn  
Aug 19

En Clair.  
Code.  
Cypher.

Distribution :-

Cabinet

Copies to :-

1/P

3148 Wt. 26469/137 50m 9/46 (51) F.S.S.

194  
F.O.  
A  
Despatched  
M.

IMMEDIATE

My tel. No. 123 to Marseilles:  
[of Aug 19: Jewish illegal immigration]

I shall be grateful if you will ~~submit~~ interview ~~with~~ ~~the~~ ~~French~~ ~~Government~~ ~~and~~ ~~communicate~~ to the French Govt.

H.M.G.'s decision and the text of the British Communiqué at 10.30am.

BST on Aug 21<sup>st</sup> and ~~press~~ ~~them~~ to act as suggested in your tel. No. 817.

2. I regret that it is not possible to give the longer French Govt. (advance notice but it is of the highest importance that ~~Zionists should not receive definite information~~ ~~then~~ ~~should~~ ~~be~~ ~~no~~ ~~leakage~~ ~~in~~ ~~making~~

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Reference: FO 371/61822

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[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].

Top Secret  
Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

EY612/48/9

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO PARIS

No.1869

D. 9.40 p.m. 19th August, 1947

19th August, 1947

Repeated to Marseilles No.124.

IMMEDIATE

My telegram No.123, to Marseilles: [of August 19th: Jewish illegal immigration].

I shall be grateful if you will communicate to the French Government, His Majesty's Government's decision and the text of the British communiqué at 10.50 a.m. B.S.T. on August 21st and press them to act as suggested in your telegram No.817.

2. I regret that it is not possible to give the French Government longer advance notice but it is of the highest importance that there should be no leakage enabling Zionists to take further steps to influence the Jews against disembarking before the announcement is made to them.

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Registry

No. EY615/48/9

70

~~Top Secret~~

Secret.

~~Confidential~~

~~Restricted~~

~~Open~~

F. O.,

194

Despatched

M.

Draft.

Marseilles

MOST IMMEDIATE

Telegram.

SECRET

No. 128

(Date) Aug 20<sup>th</sup>

Repeat to:—

Paris 1880

Washington 8473

Berlin 2430

Jerusalem

C. G. Med.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(via a/c)

~~En Clair~~

~~Code~~

~~Cypher~~

Distribution:—

Dept. No. 2

Copies to:—

1. 1 P

My tel No. 123 [of Aug. 19: Jewish illegal immigration]

You will have seen from amendment to Communiqué that time of sailing has been put forward to 6 p.m. B.S.T. Aug 22nd. Reason is that it has been

suggested here that there would be outcry if Jews were sent off on the Jewish Sabbath, which starts at sundown on Friday. Please amend my instructions accordingly.

2. I trust the amended hour will be convenient locally.

1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference:

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71 locally. Please keep O.C. Troops  
and Naval Commander  
informed.

J.B. Aug 20

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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~~Secret~~

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Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO MARSEILLES.

No. 128

20th August 1947. D. 4.27 p.m. 20th August 1947.

Repeated to Paris No. 1880 )  
Washington No. 8473 )  
Berlin No. 2430 ) MOST  
Jerusalem ) IMMEDIATE.  
Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean)

V V V

MOST IMMEDIATE.

SECRET.

My telegram No. 123 [of August 19th: Jewish illegal immigration].

You will have seen from amendment to Communiqué that time of sailing has been put forward to 6 p.m. B.S.T. August 22nd. Reason is that it has been suggested here that there would be outcry if Jews were sent off on the Jewish Sabbath, which starts at sundown on Friday. Please amend my instructions accordingly.

2. I trust the amended hour will be convenient locally. Please keep Officer Commanding Troops and Naval Commander informed.

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Reference:

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<p>1947</p> <p>381</p>	<p>Palestine</p> <p>EASTERN</p>	<p>EY616 /G</p> <p>73</p>
<p>EY616 /48/9</p> <p>Cairo 415</p> <p>Dated 13 Aug</p> <p>Received 19 Aug</p>	<p>Capt. Lazar Chodorov &amp; the s.s. <u>"Lee Sang"</u></p>	
<p>Last Paper</p> <p>EY615</p>	<p>(Minutes)</p> <p>copy M.I. 5 (Mr. Selman)</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i> 20/8</p>	
<p>References</p> <p>E6654/48/9</p> <p>E5425/48/9.</p>		
<p>(Print)</p>		
<p>(How disposed of)</p> <p>8) Mr. Selman M.I. 5</p> <p>✓ 2/ Aug</p>		
<p>(Action completed)</p> <p>2F 22/8</p>	<p>(Index)</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i></p>	
<p>Next Paper</p>		

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61822**

/JMK

E 15 AUG 1947

No. 715

(112/79/47) Minister

74

His Majesty's ~~XXXXXXXX~~ presents his compliments to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and has the honour to transmit herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
CAIRO.

1501 207 60

13th August, 1947.

E 15 AUG 1947

Reference to previous communication:

Your Printed Despatch No. 508 of 25th July, 1947.

Description of Enclosure.

Name, Date, etc.	Subject.
------------------	----------

FROM: British Consulate- General, Alexandria. Enclosures to Compliment Slip No. 32/10/2 of 30.7.47.	Captain Lazar CHODOROV, and the s.s. "Lee Sang".
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Reference:

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/ As received under Compliment Slip from  
- British Consulate General, Alexandria, No. 75  
32/10/2 of 30th July, 1947./

COPY/JMK

32/10/2

From: H.M. Consul General, Alexandria.

To: Staff Officer (Intelligence) Levant & Eastern  
Mediterranean.

Date: 30th July, 1947.

SECRET.

-----  
With reference to your letter O.S. 43/223/47 of  
the 28th June regarding the s.s. "Lee Sang" I have,  
in the absence of Trattles, failed to make out  
exactly what is his relationship with Edde of Beirut.

The ship is apparently to operate for some  
while now in the Red Sea, where she should be away  
from risk of this Jewish trade.

Chodorov, the Master, originally told me  
that he was well known to Mr. Brett at Suez and I  
therefore attach copy of a note Mr. Brett has  
made out.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the  
Embassy at Cairo.

(Sgd) C.H. SUMMERHAYES.  
H.M. CONSUL GENERAL.

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COPY/JMK

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MEMORANDUM ON CAPTAIN LAZAR CHODOROV.  
-----

Captain Chodorov was formerly employed as a Mate on one of the Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Co. vessels on the Suez-Red Sea Oilfields run. He enjoyed a good reputation as a seaman and I always heard that he was honest. Early in the war, as promotion was slow, he left the Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Co. and served on various ships in the Suez area and on the Red Sea run. He was for a time Chief Officer of the "SANG". When Massaua fell he went as an employee of the M.W.T. to take charge of the ex-German vessel "LIEBENFELS" which had been raised by the Americans. Under very difficult conditions he took the vessel under her own steam to Haifa for a refit and then took her to the United Kingdom. This latter part of the trip for the account of the B.I. Co. On his arrival in the United Kingdom the B.I. Co. put their own crew aboard and Captain Chodorov was repatriated to the Middle East. I am not very sure of his movements after this, but I know he was for a time on the "STAR OF MEX" before going to the "LEE SANG" as Master.

As Captain Chodorov was in the Suez area for a considerable period of time, I got to know him fairly well, especially over the "LIEBENFELS" job which he handled extremely well. From odd conversations I have had with him, it appears that he was brought up for many years in Russia where his father had sent the family owing to the difficulties Jews had to contend with in Poland. I believe he still has a brother, a doctor, in Russia. As a young man he became a Zionist pioneer and went to Palestine. He married a Jewess of Russian stock but born in Palestine. Being a seaman at heart he soon tired of the life on the communal farm where he first went, and returned to sea. I don't know the names of the ships on which he served at that time but I do know he was at Cdynia when war broke out in 1939. He was on a vessel taking cargo for the Mediterranean.

I believe him to be a clever business man but one who would not get into unnecessary trouble to earn a few extra pounds. He believes in Palestine for the Jews but he believes in building up on a sound basis and I have heard him express the hope that the Palestine merchant marine fleet could be built up into a good regular fleet on U.K. lines. If he still holds this view then I would rule out illegal immigration.

RMMB.

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382 704

Palestine

EASTERN

7617 /G

19 AUG 1947

77

E 7617 /48/G

Mr Creech Jones  
C.O.  
Mr Bevin

Dated 14 Aug  
Received 19 Aug

News on President Waifield

Last Paper

EY616

References

(Minutes)

*Publ*  
(J.E. CABLE)  
20/8

See E . . . /G and action

J.B. Aug 20

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

(Index)

25/8

*W.H.*

Next Paper

1	2	3	4	5	6

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19 AUG 1947

E

*Encl*

78



COLONIAL OFFICE,

DOWNING STREET, S.W.1.

14th August, 1947.

*My dear Encl:-*

Since our talk the other day about the Jews from the President Warfield, now at Port de Bouc, both Duff Cooper and the Consul-General, Marseilles, have reported that they see no signs of a break in the present deadlock, and that although these people have been on board the transports off the French coast for nearly three weeks, their determination to stay put remains unshaken. So far only some 120, most of them invalids, have decided to accept the French offer of hospitality, and there have been no disembarkations in the last few days.

It seems clear that the only way of ending the present intolerable situation is to announce as soon as possible our decision to send these Jews to a definite destination which should be such as to make the prospect of landing in France preferable to this alternative.

There are two cogent practical reasons for ending the deadlock as soon as possible. As you are aware, there has already been difficulty with the crew of one of the transports whose articles expired a few days ago. I now learn that the men have agreed to the extension of their agreements until the 24th August, but if the ships have not moved from Port de Bouc by then, it will be necessary to send a fresh crew from this country. I understand too that there may also be difficulty with the troops on board the ships, as their discipline, hitherto admirable, may become affected since some are due shortly for discharge or leave.

I am concerned too at the continued absence of the large transports from Palestine. These ships could not be back on station in less than four weeks from the date of sailing from Port de Bouc. There are seven illegal immigrant ships with a capacity of 5,700 which could sail for Palestine in the near future. The situation would be most difficult if several ships were to arrive

together,

The Rt.Hon.Ernest Bevin, M.P.

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*Hand to  
Ernest Bevin  
W. Murray  
1947*

79

together, and there could, of course, be no question of a refoulement operation while the transports were away. Since ships employed on this work must, for security reasons, be properly fitted out, it would take at least six weeks for additional ships to be made ready, even if they could be provided by the Ministry of Transport, who are already extremely hard pressed for ships to meet existing commitments.

I have explored most thoroughly the possibility of sending the Jews to British controlled territories. So that you may appreciate my efforts in this regard I attach a note to this letter showing the results of my inquiries. You will see that there is no prospect of receiving more than a few hundred in the Colonies in the immediate future and that accommodation, supply and shipping arrangements would even then make eventual reception a matter of great difficulty. In all the circumstances, it seems inevitable that if the French Government will not be more co-operative, Germany alone can receive them. What feeling of distress attends these people should this solution be necessary is entirely their own responsibility.

I therefore suggest that a decision should now be taken that these people should be told that unless they disembark at Port de Bouc within some specified period they will at the end of it be taken on by sea to Germany. The Jewish Agency should, I suggest, be told of this decision and their co-operation invited in the interests of their people.

The French Government also should be told and asked to keep open their offer of hospitality so that any of these people who wished to do so could enter France by way of the British Zone.

I

*Not attached  
when letter  
reached  
E. Dept. H*

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80

I regret bothering you about this on your holiday.

I am sending copies of this letter to Alexander, Barnes, Bellenger, Chuter Ede and Hall.

*Yours Sincerely*

*Alma Jones*

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**61822**

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group..... *Fo*

Class ..... *371*

Piece ..... *61822*

Following document(s)\*

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transferred to PRO Safe Room\*

*E7618/48/31*

and closed until..... *1998*

\*delete as necessary

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1947

Palestine  
EASTERN

Y628/G  
19 AUG 1947 81

384

E 7628/48/C

Accommodation for news  
in British zone

Subsacke

10494

ccy Basic  
dated 18 Aug  
Received 19 Aug.

Last Paper.

(Minutes.)

E 7618

*Robb*  
(S.E. ASLE)

References.

Repln sent i pre attach

20/8

E 7488/48/C  
E 6360/48/C

JB Aug 20

German (Pol) Dept.

JB Aug 22

25/m

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) 11P. 20 Aug

Tel Subsacke 3341  
21 Aug

Rpts Berlin 50  
Paris 130  
Paris 1886

8) 11P 22 Aug

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

25/8

*W*

Next Paper.

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[The text of this telegram must first be paraphrased if communicated to persons outside British Government service or if transmitted in a cypher system other than O.T.P.]

Cypher

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM LUBBECKE TO CONFOLK LONDON

(From Office of Political Adviser to Commander-in-Chief Germany)

No. 10494 CCG BASIC D. 6.20 p.m. August 18th, 1947.  
August 18th, 1947. R. 9.15 p.m. August 18th, 1947.  
(Via Norfolk House)

Repeated to Bercomb Berlin

SSSSS

TOP SECRET

From Commander-in-Chief.  
Your Basic 3015 of August 16th, 1947.

Further to my telephone conversation yesterday with Mr. Maurice Dean, if there is final failure to secure disembarkation in France, then we can - albeit unwillingly - accommodate these Jews in the British zone. They will be concentrated in one or two refugee camps probably in the north initially under military guard during screening. Neither the American nor the Germans are likely to react to this favourably however.

2. I would like your confirmation on the following points as a matter of urgency that

(a) only one ship the ex "President Warfield" will transport these refugees.

(b) A naval escort will be provided.

(c) We may use military force, if necessary, to effect disembarkation at Hamburg.

3. Please also signal

(y) estimated breakdown by sexes to show children separately.

(z) Estimated percentage of sick.

4. I am pleased to note that every effort will continue to be made to persuade these Jews to land in France. Also that you intend subsequently to press the French to accept them back by train from the British zone. If both these fail there is at least this to be put to the credit side - the probability that the present illegal traffic across Germany en route to Palestine will be much discouraged.

7628/4831

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FOREIGN OFFICE  
20 AUG 1947

83

Message Control

All you please  
despatch this telegram Not  
Immediate to Lubbecke  
and repeat to Berlin - ~~Russia~~.

It is essential that draft be  
returned to us urgently in order  
that we may repeat to Versailles  
and Paris and arrange for quick  
copying and distribution

*[Signature]*  
Tel Section  
20/8

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61822

84

SO of Communications Dept.  
Press Office

---

Draft referred to overleaf is  
herewith returned.

Also attached is copy of  
an outgoing telegram as proof  
of despatch.

J. Edmund

James Edmund  
Norfolk House  
20th August 1967

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Registry

No. **EY628/48/C**

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 Open.

F. O.,

21/8 / 1947

Despatched 12 28 A M.

Draft.

**MOST IMMEDIATE**

LUBBECKE

~~TOP SECRET~~

No. 3341 Basic

For Commander-in-Chief. Your telegram

No. 10494 BASIC [of August 18th. Jewish illegal immigration].

Telegram.

No. ....

(Date) .....

Repeat to :-

Bearcomb, Berlin.  
 No. 2250 Basic  
 Marseilles 130  
 NO : 5/217.  
 Paris 1886

Illegal immigrants will be carried in three British transports of ten-thousand gross registered tons each, EMPIRE RIVAL, OCEAN VIGOUR AND RUNNYMEDE PARK. They will have naval escort. You are authorised to use force in carrying out disembarkation.

2. Numbers on arrival at Port de Bouc were as follows :-
- (a) "OCEAN VIGOUR" : 657 males ; 558 females; 259 children.
  - (b) "RUNNYMEDE PARK" : 546 males ; 443 females ; 405 children.
  - (c) "EMPIRE RIVAL" : 629 males ; 601 females ; 291 children.

3. About 130 Jews have landed in France and these figures will have to be slightly amended in the light of information from Marseilles regarding the number of Jews who actually sail.

Copies to :-

I.  P.

4. I much appreciate the spirit in which you have accepted this further onerous commitment. I should be grateful for the earliest possible information ( repeated to Washington, Paris and Jerusalem ) regarding the camps to be used and the /

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(13556) Wt. 43697-140 100m 3147 C.S.St. Gp 620

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9/317  
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He

and the conditions in which the Jews will be lodged, about which we and our Missions will undoubtedly have a great number of critical enquiries. It would be valuable if we could enlist the co-operation of the I.R.O. or the International Red Cross in denying the likely allegations that the Jews are being sent to concentration camps.

JB, Aug 20

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference:

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CYPHER  
(Paraphrasing  
unnecessary)

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

(This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on)

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE (GERMAN SECTION) TO LUBBECKE

No 3341 Basic

TOP SECRET

20th August 1947

MOST IMMEDIATE

Repeated: Berlin No 2250 D  
Basic  
Marseilles  
Paris

20th August 1947

For Commander-in-Chief.

Your telegram No 10494 BASIC (of 15th August.  
Jewish illegal immigration).

Illegal immigrants will be carried in three British transports of ten thousand gross registered tons each, EMPIRE RIVAL, OCEAN VIGOUR and RUNNYMEDE PARK. They will have naval escort. You are authorised to use force in carrying out disembarkation.

2. Numbers on arrival at Port de Bouc were as follows:-

- (a) QUOTE OCEAN VIGOUR UNQUOTE: 657 males; 558 females; 259 children.
- (b) QUOTE RUNNYMEDE PARK UNQUOTE: 546 males; 443 females; 405 children.
- (c) QUOTE EMPIRE RIVAL UNQUOTE: 629 males; 601 females; 291 children.

3. About 130 Jews have landed in France and these figures will have to be amended in the light of this fact and of information from Marseilles regarding the number of Jews who actually sail.

4. I much appreciate your acceptance of this onerous commitment. I should be grateful for the earliest possible information (repeated to Washington, Paris and Jerusalem) regarding the camps to be used and the conditions in which the Jews will be lodged, about which we and our Missions will undoubtedly have a great number of critical enquiries. It would be valuable if we could enlist the co-operation of the I.R.C. or the International Red Cross in denying the likely allegations that the Jews are being sent to concentration camps.

C/317 Originator: S.O. i/c Comd Downing Street.

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A.FM/R.R. Distribution: Arranged by Downing Street.

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Y629 /G  
40 AUG 1947

Palestine

EASTERN

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EY629/48/C

S.S. Kota

Genoa  
38

Dated 18 Aug  
Received 19 Aug

Last Paper.

EY628

References.

EY455/48/C  
E4421/84/31  
E4559/84/31

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

2) 11P  
also  
Mr Rennie M/Trans  
Mr Schell M/5  
Mr Higham C.O  
19 Aug

2a) Genoa 60  
20 Aug  
2b) Rome 56 Saw  
22 Aug

(Action completed.)

25 21/8

(Index.)

WPA

Next Paper.

(Minutes.)

Messrs. Gasparinatos and Potamianos were interviewed by the Shipping Panel to-day, when it was decided to release the ship on the following conditions:

- (a) That Gasparinatos should sever his connection with Potamianos.
- (b) That Gasparinatos should keep us informed on the ship's future activities.

Telegram to Genoa accordingly.  
Wigham - Richardson I tell me that Gasparinatos has now formally revoked the power of attorney granted to Potamianos and I have accordingly told them to release the ship.

*[Signature]*  
21/8

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Cypher/OTP

*Green*  
*E-7629*  
*15*  
DEPARTMENTAL No.1 *89*

FROM GENOA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

His Majesty's Consul General D. 8.30 p.m. 18th August,  
No. 58 1947.  
R. 3.15 a.m. 19th August,  
18th August, 1947. 1947.

Repeated to Rome Saving

///

IMMEDIATE

SECRET

Your telegram No. 59.

Source of information contained in my telegrams Nos. 25 and 26 now gives following version of his interviews with Potamianos which latter did not reveal to me stating only that he had been approached on one occasion by a Greek captain whose suggestion that the vessel could be sold to the Jews at a good price he turned down without discussion.

2. Source states that he visited the ship in May and put the above suggestion to Potamianos in the presence of other members of the crew and that Potamianos showed annoyance at the matter being discussed in the presence of third parties. Source and Potamianos later discussed the suggestion privately and in due course Source put Potamianos in touch with Dandria. Dandria and Potamianos signed preliminary agreement at Hotel Columbia Genoa for purchase of vessel by the former for 80,000 pounds but negotiations later were held up through Potamianos' insistence on being paid the whole sum to enable him to pay of debts on ship, whereas Dandria wanted debts to be paid first. Source was to receive £1000 from both parties for his services. Source does not know how the matter now stands but insists on veracity of his version and states that although Potamianos may pretend not to know his name which is what Potamianos told me in describing the Greek captain mentioned in paragraph 1, both know each other quite well and saw each other a few days ago. Source excludes Gasparinatos having anything to do with the above negotiations which Potamianos apparently carried on without the formers' knowledge.

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J.E.C.

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F. O.,

194

Despatched 11 ~~30~~ M.

Draft.

GENOA

Confidential

Telegram.

No. 60  
(Date) Aug 20

Repeat to:—

Rome (Army)  
256

your telegram no. 38 [of  
18th August: suspect ship "KORA"]

GASPARINATOS and POTAMIANOS  
were interviewed <sup>(here)</sup> by ~~shipping~~ ~~found~~  
to-day. In view of removal of  
between decks reported in your  
telegram no. 37, and your ~~recommendation~~  
it has been decided to release  
vessel on following conditions, to  
which GASPARINATOS has agreed:

- (a) He should sever connection with POTAMIANOS;
- (b) He should let us know which firm of shipping agents will manage ship for him.
- (c) He should seek our approval before selling ship.

2. As soon as Constant and Constant confirm that power of attorney granted by GASPARINATOS to POTAMIANOS has been revoked, we will authorize them to expedite

En Clair.  
Code.  
Cypher.

Distribution:—

Departmental NO. 1

Copies to:—

I.F.P.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3148 Wt. 26469/137 50m 9/46 (51) F.&S.


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Reference: FO 371 61822

91 expedite release of ship from  
arrest.

3. We should, however,  
still be glad of report suggested  
in your Telegram no. 37 (hand.  
3) when vessel finally  
sails.

 20/8

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference:

FO

371

61822

Green

92

E 7629/48/G

Confidential

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No: 1

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO GENOA

No: 60

20th August 1947

D. 11.30.a.m. 21st August 1947

Repeated to Rome No: 256 Saving

X:X:X:

CONFIDENTIAL

Your telegram No: 38 [of 18th August: suspect ship "Kora"].

Gasparinatos and Potamianos were interviewed here to-day. In view of removal of between decks reported in your telegram No: 37, it has been decided to release vessel on following conditions, to which Gasparinatos has agreed:

- (a) He should sever connexion with Potamianos;
- (b) He should let us know which firm of shipping agents will manage ship for him.
- (c) He should seek our approval before selling ship.

2. As soon as Constant and Constant confirm that power of attorney granted by Gasparinatos to Potamianos has been revoked, we will authorise them to expedite release of ship from arrest.

3. We should, however, still be glad of report suggested in your telegram No: 37 (paragraph 5) when vessel finally sails.

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61822

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1947

386 31

*Palentine*

EASTERN

EY659 /G

20 AUG 1947

EY659 /48/C

Announcement to news on 93  
President warfield regarding  
their destination.

Mr Kay  
Marseille

144

Dated 19 Aug  
Received 20 Aug

Last Paper.

(Minutes.)

EY629

*Fable*  
(J.E.CABLE)  
20/8

References.

EY615/48/C

Reply sent  
JB Aug 20

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

3) 11P 22 Aug  
10) Marseille 129  
20 Aug  
3) 11P 22 Aug

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

*JP 21/8*

*WJG*

Next Paper.

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Reference:

FO

371

61822

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EY659

20 AUG 1947

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1.

Cypher/OTP

FROM MARSEILLES TO FOREIGN OFFICE

44

Mr. Kay  
No. 144

August 19th, 1947.

D. 2.55 p.m. August 19th, 1947.

R. 5.10 p.m. August 19th, 1947.

Repeated to Paris

SSSSS

IMMEDIATE

TOP SECRET

Illegal Jewish Immigration.

My telegram No. 142.

O.C. Troops considers that announcement should be made to five or six Jewish leaders on each transport (one from each hold) for dissemination amongst immigrants.

2. I agree with this proposal since it will avoid hysteria occasioned by announcement made on arrival of transports.

3. You may however wish to consider supplementing this by distribution of leaflets to all immigrants or having announcement made as before direct to all passengers. This would avoid danger of misrepresentation by Jewish leaders.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat]

20 AUG 1947

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Registry No.

Top Secret.  
~~Secret.~~  
Confidential.  
~~Restricted.~~  
~~Open.~~

Draft.

Marselles

Telegram.

No. 129  
(Date) Aug 20<sup>th</sup>

Repeat to :-  
Paris 1881

C. agree

~~En Clair.~~  
~~Code.~~  
Cypher.

Distribution :-  
Dept 1. No. 1

Copies to :-

1 1 P

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3148 Wt. 26469/137 50m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

F. O. 95

20/8 194

Despatched 5.5p M.

MOST IMMEDIATE

TOP SECRET

Your tel. no. 144 [of Aug. 19:  
Jewish illegal immigration]  
~~repeat para. 3~~ / I agree.  
para. 31.

I regard it as  
very important that each  
individual should have  
an opportunity of taking  
in the sense of our  
announcement without  
the intermediary of the  
leaders. I should wish you to  
aim at making an  
announcement issued  
hammered at each hold  
supplemented by leaflets  
as you suggest.

10 Aug 20 M.  
~~ambassador's signature~~  
[Signature]

[Copy sent to Mr. [unclear]]

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Reference: FO 371 61822

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E 4659/48/9

*Green*

96

Top Secret

Cypher OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No. 1

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO MARSEILLES

No. 129

20th August 1947. D. 5.05 p.m. 20th August 1947.

Repeated to Paris No. 1881

MOST IMMEDIATE  
TOP SECRET

TTTTT

Your telegram No. 144 [of August 19th: Jewish illegal immigration] paragraph 3 (repeat paragraph 3). I agree.

I regard it as very important that each individual should have an opportunity of taking in the sense of our announcement without the intermediary of the leaders. I should wish you to aim at making an announcement at each held supplemented by leaflets as you suggest.

[Copy sent to M.E. Secretariat].

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**FO**

371

61822

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244

97

1947

E

E 7671

21 AUG 1947

DALEFINE

Registry Number

E 7671/48/31

FROM

T. J. Henderson

No.

Legation  
Stockholm

Dated

22.2.

Received in Registry

Aug. 8.  
21

Illegal Immigration  
Refer Stockholm no 190 (E 6578/48/31)  
Enclosing note to Swedish Mils Foreign Affairs  
on Illegal Immigration. Also transmits some  
observations on the subject by the Swedish  
Ministry of Commerce.

Last Paper

7659

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

8/1 ~~dupham. 20~~  
~~covered. Cab off~~  
Aug 23

(Action completed)

Glubb 27/8

(Index)

27/8/48

Next Paper

7673

(Minutes.)

As this memorandum by the  
Swedish Board of Trade does not  
constitute a formal reply to our original  
note, I do not think we need  
protest at its unsatisfactory nature.  
Mr. Henderson is obviously fully aware  
of its snags and can be counted  
on to point them out to the Swedes  
at the appropriate moment. Moreover,  
they are actually detaining the  
"SAW BASILIO" at Gothenburg and  
thus doing what we want.

Copy to Lussal  
Cab. off names *Jables*  
(C.E. CABLE)

Northam Dept. 6.4.48  
27/8.

23/8

JB Aug 23

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Reference: FO

371

61822



E 7671

21 AUG BRITISH LEGATION,  
STOCKHOLM.

E  
48

No. 222  
54/112/47

8th August, 1947.

Sir,

With reference to my despatch No.190 of July 9th transmitting to you the copy of a note I addressed on your instructions to the Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of illegal immigration into Palestine, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith some observations made by the Swedish Ministry of Commerce.

2. This document is drawn up in English and it is reasonably easy to understand what is meant, although the last sentence of the memorandum might be misunderstood in English unless the reader were acquainted with Swedish constructions. When the drafter says "is the proper controlling authority satisfied" he means "if the proper controlling authority is satisfied".

3. When this document was handed over to me by the official who is acting for the Head of the Legal Section, he said that it was not to be considered as a final answer to my note enclosed in the despatch referred to above. It was merely the observations of one Swedish Government Department and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs might wish to modify these ideas in any final reply. The "Board of Trade's" ideas are inclined to be non-co-operative and the memorandum spends more time on pointing out how difficult it is to do anything than in suggesting what might possibly be done. As regards the excuses put forward for the lack of Swedish action in the case of the Ulua, I consider that they are rather weak. If the vessel was not a passenger ship it should not have been allowed to sail with more than 12 passengers. If it were a passenger ship it should have been judged according to the regulations in force for such ships. Also the excuses that nothing was done because the vessel was to make only the comparatively short voyage to a French channel port are particularly weak in view of the fact that the Swedish authorities were told in plenty of time that we did not consider the Cuban visas of the Jews as valid, that we did not believe that the ship would turn round at Le Havre, and that everything pointed to its use as an illegal immigrant ship. It suited the Swedish authorities better to believe the Jewish assertions than those of H.M. Legation because if they had accepted our statements they would have been practically forced to take some action.

4. In the meantime various Jewish Zionist organisations have been holding protest meetings against British policy in regard to immigration and speak of the barbaric way in which the British authorities are driving the Jews away from Palestine. This does not seem to have had very much effect, however, although the influential members of the Jewish community here took great care to see that this accusation had a reasonably wide circulation in the press. The hanging of the two British sergeants by Irgun Zvai Leumi has done the Jewish cause here a great deal of harm, and several papers have

expressed/

The Right Honourable  
Ernest Bevin, P.C., M.P.,  
etc., etc., etc.,

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Reference: FO 371 51822

99

expressed disgust at this behaviour. The Liberal "Stockholms Tidningen" calls the murderers "the enemies of Jewry". Sympathy for the Zionists is diminishing and there is a growing understanding of British difficulties in the Palestine question.

I have the honour to be,  
with the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

*J. Thyne Anderson*

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Reference:

**FO**

**371**

**61822**

COPY

Royal Swedish  
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

The Board of Trade wishes, in the first place, to point out that the survey contained in the communication of the British Legation of the Swedish laws and regulations regarding the control and supervision of vessels, on the part of the Board of Trade only gives rise to the following observations.

The principal Swedish rule on the subject, which is laid down in paragraph 24 of the Law of the 16th October, 1914, concerning the Control of Ships ("Ships' Inspection Act") states that, if a ship is found to show such defects in various respects as specified in the paragraph, "that a voyage may reasonably be assumed to involve danger of life to those on board, the proper Controlling Authority may, to any extent required, prohibit the use of the ship until such deficiencies have been removed". According to the opinion of the Board of Trade, the expression "endangering the lives" used in the British note is a translation not fully equivalent to the Swedish wording "skäligen kan antagas föranleda livsfara för dem, som äro ombord".

To the knowledge of the Board of Trade only one vessel used for the purpose of transporting illegal immigrants to Palestine has so far departed from Sweden. When departing from a Swedish port this ship was, however, not bound for Palestine but for Le Havre. The vessel was an ordinary cargo ship named "The Ulua", of Lasiba, Honduras. On the examination made by the proper Inspector of Ships prior to the departure of this vessel, it was ascertained that not being a passenger ship the vessel was considered fully seaworthy and not loaded up more than permitted in the Convention Respecting Load Lines. However, the valid provisions relating to passenger ships employed in the trade now referred to, were not complied with, but the deviations were on the occasion of the examination not considered to be of such a kind or of such an extent as to enable the Authorities to forbid the vessel to sail. According to paragraph 24 of the Ships' Inspection Act such a prohibition can obviously only be issued if the deficiencies may reasonably be assumed to involve danger of life to those on board. This did not appear to be the case in respect of the "Ulua" on account of the fact that the vessel was to make only the comparatively short voyage to the French Channel port.

Concerning the two Conventions referred to in the British note the following facts may be pointed out.

According to the Convention Respecting Load Lines the proper authority of a ship's home country or, at the request of the said authority, a foreign authority assigns certain load lines up to which the ship may be loaded at various times of the year and within different geographical zones.

The assignment of these load lines is made in compliance with the provisions of the Convention but also in consideration of the fact that, by the stipulations of the Convention, the proper authority has the right to grant certain exemptions or deviations which the said authority seems reasonable or appropriate regarding vessels, the keels of which were laid before July 1st, 1932, i.e. "existing ships". It seems obvious that a moderate loading below these assigned load lines cannot

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Reference: FO 371 61822

simply be considered to involve such reasonable ground for endangering life as may justify prohibition of the use of the vessel. In case the overloading of a vessel (Swedish or foreign) is so considerable that cause for danger of life reasonably may be assumed to exist, prohibition to sail is issued in virtue of paragraph 24 of the Ships' Inspection Act. Further stipulations regarding the inspection of foreign vessels, founded on the Convention Respecting Load Lines, are to be found in paragraph 29 clause 2 of the Ordinance of the 31st December, 1914, with special Regulations concerning the Control of Ships (Ships' Inspection Ordinance).

The Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea is applicable to passenger ships only as far as the paragraphs now in view are concerned. The proper authority of the home country of the vessel has a comparatively extensive right to make exemptions from the stipulations in relation to the so-called "existing vessels", which category, according to this Convention, comprize passenger ships, the keels of which were laid before July 1st, 1931. The Swedish Controlling Authorities supervise, as far as possible, also foreign vessels to the extent prescribed in paragraph 29 clause 1 of the Ships' Inspection Ordinance. Should the authority thereby find that a foreign vessel is showing defects of such a kind and of such an extent that a voyage may reasonably be assumed to involve danger of life to those on board, prohibition to sail will be issued in virtue of paragraph 24 of the Ships' Inspection Act.

According to the opinion of the Board of Trade the obligations assumed by Sweden in compliance with article 1 of the two Conventions would in the first place apply to the inspection of vessels belonging to the countries which adhere to these Conventions. However, this undertaking would hardly imply an obligation to apply the regulations of these Conventions to vessels from countries which have not ratified the Conventions. The principal stipulation referred to above, i.e. paragraph 24 of the Ships' Inspection Act is yet applicable without any restriction.

As will be seen from the above, a Swedish controlling authority is not entitled to forbid the use of a Swedish or foreign vessel, unless it is ascertained that the pending voyage of the vessel in question may reasonably be assumed to involve danger of life to those on board. Is the proper controlling authority satisfied that no such cause to danger of life prevails, the authority thus by virtue of the laws and regulations now in force in Sweden, does not seem to possess the right to forbid the vessel to sail.

Stockholm the 6th August  
1947.

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Piece ..... *61822* .....

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*E7699/48/31*

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**371**

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	Palestine	7401 /G
389	EASTERN	21 AUG 1947

31  
 F 7401 /48 /G  
 F.O Min.  
 Mr H. Dean

Dated 19 Aug  
 Received 21 Aug

102

Destination of Jews stopped  
 from going to Palestine

Last Paper  
 F 7400

(Minutes)

In accordance with Sir Orme Sargent's ruling in the minute within, I stated at the official Committee on Illegal Immigration yesterday that we wished to make it clear that, should it be necessary to find accommodation for illegal immigrants as the result of further unsuccessful attempts at refoulement, the Foreign Office could not agree to call upon the British Zone in Germany again. It would be the turn of the Colonial Office to find a suitable place in British colonial territory.

References

2. We had better go on record in writing to the same effect and I accordingly submit a draft letter from Sir Orme Sargent to Sir T. Lloyd of the Colonial Office.

(Print)

3. Mr Deans' final point has been taken care of. Mr Duff Cooper has today requested the French Government to accept back into France via the British Zone in Germany the 4,500 Jews now on their way to Hamburg. A short communiqué is being given to the press today in London and Paris.

(How disposed of)

1) Sir T. Lloyd C.O.  
 from Sir O Sargent  
 2) Mr Lang Adly  
 Sir E. Speed W.O  
 Mr Weston H/Treas  
 3rd Sept

3) Mr Evershed  
 Cabot  
 Sept. 16.

*J. G. S. Beith*  
 ( J. G. S. Beith. )  
 23rd August, 1947.

with night  
 26.8

(Action completed)	(Index)
Final	W.H.
24/9.	

Draft sent  
 15 Sept. 2

Copy Sir O. Sargent's letter of Sept. 2nd to Sir T. Lloyd to Cmdr. Evershed, Cabinet office please  
 JB Sept. 10

Next Paper

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Reference: FO 371 / 61822

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Minutes.

E EYYP/ptel 1000  
103  
22-8-48/4816

I have been speaking to the Commander-in-Chief in Germany by telephone with reference to Foreign Office telegram No. 2385 of August 16th about Jews ex the President Warfield. The C.-in-C. has agreed with good grace that this particular party should come to Germany, but he very much hopes that this will be the last occasion on which he is asked to take into Germany contingents of refugees.

I suggest that it is important that we should do our utmost to ensure that similar requests are not made to the C.-in-C. in future and that the stay of the Jews from the President Warfield in Germany is as short as possible. With these objects, I suggest that the Colonial Office should be asked now to consider what they are going to do with any future contingent of Jews who may be stopped from entering Palestine so that we may not next time be faced with the plea made by the Colonial Office on this occasion that they had no time to prepare accommodation in colonial territory. I also recommend that at the proper moment we should be prepared to exert the maximum pressure on the French Government in order to make sure that they will accept the trains carrying President Warfield refugees, if these are sent from Germany.

Haunier Dean.

19th August, 1947.

Sir Orme Sargent.

I fully agree with Mr Dean.  
We must not allow this to  
happen again

M Wright with 21.8  
Eastern Dept. Mr. Butts: this requires action on  
marked passage.  
Aug 19

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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Reference:

FO

371

61822

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No. E.7701/48/G.

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~~Secret~~  
Confidential.  
~~Restricted~~  
~~Open~~

J.G.S.B.

**OUT FILE**

+3 copies

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

B.O. 1/9/47 2m

August, 1947.

104

September 2nd.

Draft.

Sir Thomas Lloyd,  
K.C.M.G.,  
Colonial Office.

(From Sir Orme  
Sargent).

~~You will have seen that the Commander-  
in-Chief in Germany has ~~accepted~~ with a  
good grace the onerous commitment involved  
in accommodating the 4,500 Jewish illegal  
immigrants from Port de Bouc, in spite of  
the fact that he had been told that he would  
not be required to take any more refugees  
in the British Zone.~~

*In view, however, of the many difficulties with which our  
Administration is faced in the circumstances, I think I should  
place our view ~~on~~ <sup>before</sup> ~~it~~ on record that we could not, in  
any future case of refoulement which ran  
into ~~difficulties~~ <sup>trouble</sup>, agree to saddle Sholto  
Douglas with a further commitment of this  
kind.*

I understand that the Official  
Committee on Illegal Immigration to  
Palestine will shortly consider what should  
be our future policy on "refoulement" I  
suggest that we shall have to establish  
in future cases:-

- (a) that the country receiving back the  
illegal immigrants agrees in  
advance to use the necessary force  
to ensure disembarkation;
- (b) that we know in advance where we  
shall send the illegal immigrants  
if anything should go wrong with  
their reception in the country  
to which they are to be returned.

I am sending copies of this letter to  
Lang at the Admiralty, Speed at the  
War Office and Weston at the Ministry  
of Transport.

*[Signature]*

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

German (Vol.)  
Dept. J25/viii  
H.S. Beins  
Aug 25

Copy to:-  
C.B. Lang ..... 26.8  
Admiralty.

Sir E.B. Speed, Sin O Sargent  
War Office.  
W.C. Weston  
Ministry of  
Transport.

But in this  
case  
his destination  
could not be  
the British zones  
of Germany and  
Austria.

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Reference: FO 371 61822



(E 7701/48/G)  
CONFIDENTIAL

OUT FILE

2nd September, 1947.

105

Dear Lloyd

The Commander-in-Chief in Germany has accepted the onerous commitment involved in accommodating the 4,500 Jewish illegal immigrants from Port de Bone, in spite of the fact that he had been told that he would not be required to take any more refugees in the British Zone.

In view, however, <sup>of the many</sup> of the difficulties with which our administration in Germany is faced, I think I should record our view that we could not in any future case of "refoulement" which ran into trouble, agree to saddle Sholto Douglas with a further commitment of this kind.

As I understand that the Official Committee on Illegal Immigration to Palestine will shortly consider what should be our future policy on "refoulement", I suggest that we shall have to establish in future cases:-

- (a) that the country receiving back the illegal immigrants agrees in advance to use the necessary force to ensure disembarkation;
- (b) that we know in advance where we shall send the illegal immigrants if anything should go wrong with their reception in the country to which they are to be returned. But in that case their destination could not be the British zones of Germany and Austria.

I

Sir Thomas Lloyd, K.C.M.G.,  
Colonial Office.

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Reference:-  
**FO**  
371 / 61822

106

*Dear Sir*

I am sending copies of this letter to Lang at the Admiralty, Speed at the War Office and Weston at the Ministry of Transport.

Yours sincerely,  
O. G. Sargent.

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*E 7702/48/31*  
*E 7707*

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Reference:

**FO**

**371**

**61822**

251

E

E 7724

1947

PALESTINE

AUG 19 1947

Registry  
Number

E 7724/48/31

FROM

FV Minute

No.

F.R.W. Brown.

Dated

16 June

Received  
in Registry

22 Aug

Illegal Immigration, Visit of Board of Experts.

Asks for brief note on question of illegal  
immigration. If question is considered and  
to be brought up by Dept to Board of Experts  
during his coming visit in July.

Last Paper

7707

(Minutes.)

X July 22

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action  
completed)

pe  
F.C.M. 23/8

(Index)

24/11/48

Next Paper

7726

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Reference:

FO

371

61822

Minutes.

E: 7724

108

Eastern Department.

We have been going into the question of what Count Sforza is likely to raise if he comes over to this country as a guest of H.M.G. in July. It seems unlikely that he will raise the question of illegal immigration himself, but you may think that it would be desirable for us to raise it with him, if at the time this is still a very live question with the Italian Government on which we wish to press Count Sforza if the opportunity arises.

If you think that this problem should be raised and submitted to the Secretary of State as one of the points we do wish to raise, I should be very grateful if you could let me have a brief note for incorporation in any brief which may be prepared here for the Secretary of State's conversations with Count Sforza.

*F.D.W. Brown*

F.D.W. Brown.

16th June, 1947.

There is no particular point we wish to raise at present. I suggest we should bring up July 3rd (dates for the visit are not yet fixed) and consult Cmdr. Eversted for the Illegal Immigration Ctee. as to whether there is any point

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61822

169 point they particularly want to emphasise.

By July 3

Mr. ~~Cable~~  
~~[Signature]~~  
27/6

J.S. ~~Bevan~~  
June 27

Perhaps you might like to raise this point at the meeting of the committee on Monday.

~~[Signature]~~  
(I.E. CABLE)  
28/6

Mr. Beeby

RECEIVED IN D.B.  
21 AUG 1947  
SENT TO DEPT.  
22 AUG 1947

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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Reference:-

FO

371

61822

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1947

E

PALESTINE

E 7726

22 AUG 1947

110

Registry Number

E7726/48/31

FROM

Chancery  
Washington

No.

Dated

12/4/47

Received in Registry

13 Aug  
22

Repealment of OP from French & British zones of Germany.

Refer to letter (E655/48/31) delay in State Dept reply, due to fact that they have completely mislaid it, and I would like to ask for copy of same, and to proceed early.

Last Paper

7724

References

778

(Print)

(How disposed of)

9/ with ref  
Chancery  
Paris No 1157.  
8/ with ref.  
also Appleby  
Norfolk House  
Aug 29.

(Action completed)

(Index)

T. C. M. 30/8  
22/8/48

Next Paper

7742

(Minutes.)

I hope the State Dept. are not adopting the delaying tactics so much favoured by the Quai d'Orsay.

*Jable*  
(T.E. CABLE)

22/8

Copy with letter under reply to Chancery, Paris and Miss Appleby, Norfolk House

German Pol. Dept. T. 29/m. 18 Aug 23

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Reference:

FO

371

61822

E 7726  
22 AUG 1947

BRITISH EMBASSY,

WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

13th August 1947

K III

Ref: G124/ /47  
CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Department,

Will you please refer to your letter E 6155/48/31 of 7th August about receiving back trainloads of displaced persons which might illegally cross from the British Zone to the French Zone in Germany.

2. We have discovered that the delay in the State Department's reply to Balfour's letter to Acheson of May 26th is due to the fact that they have completely mislaid it. Mr. George Warren, who is the State Department's expert on refugees and displaced persons, has therefore asked us to let him have a copy of that letter, and has promised early action upon it. In sending it to him we will incorporate the points made in your letter under reference.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY



Eastern Department,  
Foreign Office,  
London, S.W.1.

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61822



392

1947

EASTERN

E 7742 / G

E 7742 / 48 / G

President warfield: Effect of decision in U.S.A. 112

Mr Baylour  
W'lon  
4608  
dated 21 Aug  
Received 22 Aug

Last Paper.

(Minutes.)

E 7704

References.

E 7490 / 48 / G

(Print.)

5) 11P (How disposed) 22 Aug  
Tied) W'lon 25-75  
2) 11A ✓ 22 Aug  
20 Aug  
Tied) W'lon 27-78  
✓ 27 Aug  
8) 11P 28 Aug

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

25/78

Next Paper.

The illegal immigrants are due to sail at 6.0 p.m. B.S.T. this evening, if they do not in the meanwhile decide to disembark in France. It appears in the latest report from Marseilles that few if any will disembark.

2. It will be seen from the minutes on E.7490/48/G and our telegram No. 8281 to Washington on that paper that we have taken fully into account the probable reaction of United States opinion to the removal of these illegal immigrants to the British Zone of Germany. The decision to do so was taken by the Secretary of State in line with the views of the official Committee on Illegal Immigration and the Ministerial Committee on the subject. Nothing in the present telegram from Washington appears to justify altering that decision. The State Department have only told us what we knew and have refrained from making formal representations. The announcement of our proposed action will in any case have caused a certain amount of unfavourable publicity in the United States this morning and we should get the worse of both worlds if, having made our announcement, we now amended it.

3. Nevertheless we should perhaps reply to the Washington telegram and I submit a draft which may give them some further ammunition.

J. G. S. Beith

( J. G. S. Beith. )  
22nd August, 1947.

I agree, but I suggest that paras 2 & 3 of the draft  
tit: child: be referred for inclusion in a guidance  
telegram to appropriate posts.

30047 F.O.P.  
Authorized by Mr. Wright and sent  
22/8

J. G. S. Beith  
22/8

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E  
EYK2/48/9.

Cypher/OTP

113  
DEPARTMENTAL NO.1

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Balfour.  
No.4608

D. 6.55 p.m. 21st August, 1947

21st August, 1947

R.12.15 a.m. 22nd August, 1947  
.....

MOST IMMEDIATE

Your telegram No.8281.

Palestine.

Loy Henderson has asked me to convey to you urgently following message from Mr. Lovett about passengers from "President Warfield".

2. It is to the effect that although United States Government do not (repeat not) intend to make formal representations, Lovett considers that despatch of these people to British Zone of Germany now foreshadowed in the press will undoubtedly cause an explosion here. He therefore begs you most earnestly to reconsider the matter even at this late stage and to send them if possible to a destination less likely to inflame public opinion.

3. I explained briefly the reasons which had led to your decision but Henderson nevertheless urged that the message be sent to you.

[Advance copy sent to Resident Clerk].

22 AUG 1947

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Reference: FO 371 51822

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114

The United States Ambassador telephoned this morning to say that he had received a telegram from the State Department about the removal of the Jewish refugees from Port de Bouc to Germany. The telegram indicated that our action was causing great disturbance in the United States and that protests were piling up in the State Department. The United States Government were afraid that the British position in the United States might be seriously prejudiced.

Secondly Mr. Douglas said that General Clay, who is in London, thought that our action was not strictly in accordance with the Bi-zonal Agreement. To this I demurred.

I told Mr. Douglas that, as the ships had sailed from France, I did not see what possibility there could be of alternative action. However, I would certainly have the situation examined in the light of his representations.

(Roger Makins)  
23rd August, 1947.

*Mr Wright*  
*Copy also sent to*  
*6 Private Secretary*  
*S/S*  
*Nov 23/47*  
*See further minute*  
*after discussion with*  
*Mr Wright.*

I propose/

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115

I propose to tell the United States Ambassador that we had a message from the State Department yesterday on this question, and give him the gist of the reply in Washington telegram No. 8575.

I will add that we have today asked the French officially to take the Jews into France from the British Zone on their arrival there and that this approach will be made public in the papers tomorrow.

*Rmy*

(Roger Makins)

23rd August, 1947.

*I did this last night. Mr Douglas accepted it.*

*Ry*  
*23/8.*

*Mth*

*25.8*

*Mr. Garwood 2/8*

*Draft to Washington*  
*23.8.47*  
*Aug 26*

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371

61822

Registry  
No. E. 7742/48/G.

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

116

F. O.,

194

Despatched

M.

Draft.

WASHINGTON.

~~MOST~~ IMMEDIATE.

Your telegram No. 4608 [of August 21st ] Jewish illegal immigration.

Telegram.

No. 8675.

(Date) Aug 22nd

Repeat to:

Paris IMMEDIATE

1909

Co. Concur

NA Dept.

D.S. Beins  
Aug 22

~~Enc. 1~~  
~~Case~~  
Cypher.

Distribution:—  
Departmental No. 2.

Copies to:—

11P

→ Over

Please inform State Department that we are grateful for their warning. We had expected a considerable outcry in the United States, ~~which would be fomented by~~ <sup>as a result of</sup> Jewish propoganda. However, it is literally true, ~~as~~ as stated in our communiqué, that we have no other place to put ~~these people~~ <sup>no way many people</sup> ~~except~~ <sup>limited</sup> ~~at such short notice.~~ There is <sup>limited</sup> room in ~~places like British Guiana~~ <sup>certain areas under British control</sup> but months of <sup>and great expense</sup> preparation would be required before such a large number could be accommodated. ~~There can therefore be no question of altering our decision~~

2. ~~Zionist propoganda is already suggesting~~ that the illegal immigrants are to be sent to a camp named Belsen-Bergen owing to the association with the Nazi camp at Belsen. You may state that the camps in view are Poppendorf and Amstaw near Lübeck. The rumours about Belsen are typical of the way the whole illegal immigration operation is being ~~used~~ <sup>exploited</sup> by Zionism to ~~embarrass~~ <sup>cause</sup> ~~His Majesty's~~ <sup>embarrass</sup> Government.

3. As we see it, the problem is an international ~~refugee~~ <sup>one.</sup> problem. The existing ~~immigration~~ <sup>Jewish</sup> quota of fifteen-hundred a month cannot be arbitrarily altered in the interim ~~period~~ <sup>to Palestine</sup>

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Reference:

FO 371 61822

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~~period while the future of Palestine is~~  
 before the United Nations. Meanwhile the  
 organisers of the illegal immigration  
 traffic, by sending shipload after shipload  
 into Palestine waters, are placing on His  
 Majesty's Government the direct responsibi-  
 lity ~~of Jewish refugees who are properly~~  
 "problem."  
 the responsibility of the International  
 Refugee Organisation. Great Britain, by  
 opening her frontiers throughout the period  
 of Nazi persecution and during the early  
 years of the war, has done more than any  
 other country to provide hospitality for Jews.  
~~Jews refugees from persecution~~ She is  
 being required to do so  
 still being so and is now being reviled  
 for her pains by political Zionism

2. you ~~may~~ should again draw  
 attention to the fact that since  
 the French Govt have offered  
 to receive all these Jews in  
 France none of them are  
 obliged to go to Germany.  
 If they do so it is by their  
 own choice.

WRLs

22.8

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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E.7742/48/G

118

SECRET

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No. 2

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO WASHINGTON

No. 8575

D. 6.30 p.m. 22nd August, 1947

22nd August, 1947

Repeated to: Paris No. 1909 Immediate

u u u u u

IMMEDIATE

Your telegram No. 4608 [of August 21st] Jewish illegal immigration.

Please inform State Department that we are grateful for their warning. We had expected a considerable outcry in the United States, as a result of Jewish propaganda. However, it is literally true, as stated in our communiqué, that we have no other place to put so many people at such short notice. There is limited room in certain areas under British control but months of preparation and great expense would be required before such a large number could be accommodated. There can therefore be no question of altering our decision.

2. You should again draw attention to the fact that since the French Government have offered to receive all these Jews in France none of them are obliged to go to Germany. If they do so it is by their own choice.

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**FO**

371

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry

No. *E7742/48/14*  
[Secret]

J.G.S.B.

Draft.

H.M. Ambassador,  
Washington.

Telegram.

No. *8778*

Dated. *Aug 27*

Cypher

Departmental No. 2

Copy I.I.P.

*D.S. Beint*  
*Aug 26*

*P. Gurnan*  
*V 42/8*

August, 1947.

*Despatched*

*M.*

My telegram No. 8575 [of August  
22nd:] Jewish illegal immigration

United States Ambassador informed  
Mr. Makins on August 23rd that he had  
received a telegram from the State  
Department about the removal of the  
Jewish illegal immigrants from Port  
de Bouc to Germany. The telegram  
indicated that our action was causing  
great disturbance in the United States  
and that protests were piling up in  
the State Department. United States  
Government were afraid that the  
British position in the United States  
might be seriously prejudiced. Mr.  
Douglas added that General Clay, who  
was in London, thought that our action  
was not strictly in accordance with the  
Bi-Zonal Agreement, to which Mr. Makins  
demurred.

2./

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Reference:-

FO

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2. Mr. Makins <sup>Later</sup> gave the United States  
Ambassador the <sup>substance</sup> gist of my telegram under  
reference to you and added that we had now  
asked the French Government officially  
to take the Jews into France from the  
British Zone on their arrival there.  
Mr. Douglas accepted this information.

mtls  
27.8

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Green

121

E7742/48/G

SECRET

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO WASHINGTON

No. 8778

27th August, 1947. D. 10.45 a.m. 28th August, 1947.

0 0 0 0

My telegram No. 8575 [of August 22nd:] Jewish illegal immigration.

United States Ambassador informed Mr. Makins on August 23rd that he had received a telegram from the State Department about the removal of the Jewish illegal immigrants from Port de Bouc to Germany. The telegram indicated that our action was causing great disturbance in the United States and that protests were piling up in the State Department. United States Government were afraid that the British position in the United States might be seriously prejudiced. Mr. Douglas added that General Clay, who was in London, thought that our action was not strictly in accordance with the Bi-Zonal Agreement, to which Mr. Makins demurred.

2. Mr. Makins later gave the United States Ambassador the substance of my telegram under reference to you and added that we had now asked the French Government officially to take the Jews into France from the British Zone on their arrival there. Mr. Douglas accepted this information.

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Green  
122

E7742/48/G

SECRET

Cypher/OTP/RX.

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO WASHINGTON

No. 8778

27th August, 1947. D. 10.45 a.m. 28th August, 1947.

0 0 0 0

My telegram No. 8575 [of August 22nd:] Jewish illegal immigration.

United States Ambassador informed Mr. Makins on August 23rd that he had received a telegram from the State Department about the removal of the Jewish illegal immigrants from Port de Bouc to Germany. The telegram indicated that our action was causing great disturbance in the United States and that protests were piling up in the State Department. United States Government were afraid that the British position in the United States might be seriously prejudiced. Mr. Douglas added that General Clay, who was in London, thought that our action was not strictly in accordance with the Bi-Zonal Agreement, to which Mr. Makins demurred.

2. Mr. Makins later gave the United States Ambassador the substance of my telegram under reference to you and added that we had now asked the French Government officially to take the Jews into France from the British Zone on their arrival there. Mr. Douglas accepted this information.

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1947

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31

Palestine  
EASTERN

EY43 /G  
22 Aug 1947 123

EY43 /48/G

French attitude to Jews on  
the President warfield

Mr Duff Cooper  
Paris  
828

Dated 21 Aug  
Received 22 Aug.

Last Paper.

EY42

(Minutes.)

I understand that an official was  
sent, but without result.

*Fable*  
(LJ-E-LABLE)  
23/8

References.

EY615/45/G

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/11P 22 Aug

*JG* 25/8

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

2F 26/8

*W.H.*

Next Paper.

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E

EY743

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22 AUG 1947

Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

124

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Duff Cooper.  
No.828

D. 7.20 p.m. 21st August, 1947

21st August, 1947.

R. 7.55 p.m. 21st August, 1947

Repeated to Marseilles.

.....

IMMEDIATE

Your telegram No.1869.

Jewish illegal immigration.

French Government were informed of your decision and of the text of the British communiqué at 10.30 a.m. today. Ministry of Foreign Affairs at once recommended that an official should be sent on board with a message in the sense that having learned of His Majesty's Government's decision they considered it incumbent on themselves to point out to the immigrants that it was in their own interest to land as free men in a free country rather than return to a country where they had suffered such hard trials.

2. This was submitted to the restricted Council of Ministers which was in session at the time. It was turned down.

3. New text in much more neutral terms which simply states that the French Government's offer to receive the immigrants was still open has now been submitted to Prime Minister and we await outcome. We have pointed out to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that if consideration of texts is much further prolonged it will serve no purpose as the ships will have left.

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61822

22 AUG 1947  
22 AUG 1947

Green

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Top Secret  
Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO PARIS

No.1869

D. 9.40 p.m. 19th August, 1947

19th August, 1947

Repeated to Marseilles No.124.

\*\*\*\*\*

IMMEDIATE

My telegram No.128, to Marseilles: [of August 19th: Jewish illegal immigration].

I shall be grateful if you will communicate to the French Government, His Majesty's Government's decision and the text of the British communiqué at 10.30 a.m. B.S.T. on August 21st and press them to act as suggested in your telegram No.817.

2. I regret that it is not possible to give the French Government longer advance notice but it is of the highest importance that there should be no leakage in enabling Zionists to take further steps to influence the Jews against disembarking before the announcement is made to them.

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FO

371

61822

294 1947

Palestine  
EASTERN

EY44 / G  
22 JUN 47

EY44 / 48 / G

President Warfield

126

Marseilles  
148

Dated 21 Aug  
Received 22 Aug

Last Paper.

(Minutes.)

E7743

Please see also E7743

References.

E4659 / 48 / G

*Table*  
(J-E-CABLE)

23/8

15 Aug 23

(Print.)

See within

(How disposed of.)

8) 11P 22 Aug  
PW. 1, 2  
8) 11P 24 Aug

- 1. Marseilles 149 22 Aug
- 2. Marseilles 151 22 Aug
- 3. Tel to Palestine 1899 21 Aug
- 4. Mr Gaydon C.O London 21 Aug
- 5. Palestine 1604 22 Aug
- 6. Palestine 1614 24 Aug.

*J* 29/8

7. Palestine 33 seen

28 Aug

*J* 16/9

(Action completed)

(Index.)

25 20/8

*WPA*

Next Paper.

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Code R

*E4744*  
DEPARTMENTAL No. 1.

22 AUG 1947

127

FROM MARSEILLES TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

His Majesty's Consul-General.  
No. 148. D. 7.00 p.m. 21st August, 1947.  
21st August, 1947. R.11.50 p.m. 21st August, 1947.

Repeated to Paris.

3 3 3

IMMEDIATE.  
RESTRICTED.

Your telegram No. 129.

Announcement was made on all three transports one after the other starting at 11 a.m. I am satisfied that it has been understood by all passengers.

2. Passengers of one transport have already refused to disembark but their spokesmen stated that order would be maintained.

3. Prefecture who were informed by us at 10.50 a.m., at first proposed to send a representative on board to renew the French Government's offer of welcome, but subsequently informed us that they could take no action pending receipt of instructions from Paris.

22 AUG 1947

22 AUG 1947

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E

EYY44

23 AUG 1947

[CODE R]

DEPARTMENTAL No: 2

128

FROM MARSEILLES TO FOREIGN OFFICE

His Majesty's Consul General  
No: 149

D. 11.20.a.m. 22nd August  
1947

22nd August 1947

R. 1.55.p.m. 22nd August  
1947

Repeated to Paris.

X:X:X:

IMMEDIATE

Restricted.

Illegal Jewish immigration.

My telegram 148 paragraph 3.

M. Richardot, a sub prefect, left for Port  
de Bouc early this morning to renew French Government  
offer.

23 AUG 1947

HP in Dept  
HP being given

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Reference:

FO

371

61822

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E

EY44/C

Code R.

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

129

FROM MARSEILLES TO FOREIGN OFFICE

His Majesty's Consul-General  
No. 151

D. 10.10 p.m. August 22nd, 1947.

August 22nd, 1947.

R. 11.40 p.m. August 22nd, 1947.

Repeated to Paris

SSSSS

IMMEDIATE

RESTRICTED

My telegram No. 149: Illegal Jewish immigration.

Richardot made announcement on board transport, finishing at 11 a.m. There was no reaction. Later on six Jews disembarked.

Convoy sailed from Port de Bouc at 6.20 p.m.

Foreign Office repeat Lubbecke and Berlin.

[Repeated to Berlin]

[Copies sent to Message Control  
Norfolk House for repetition to  
Lubbecke]

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**OUTWARD TELEGRAM**

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES  
76021/64

*Enter or  
forthwith*  
130

Cypher (O.T.P.)

TO PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

Sent 21st August, 1947. 11.30 hrs.

MOST IMMEDIATE

No. 1899 Secret

7744 481 9.  
AUG 21 1947

WARFIELD Immigrants.

Locker and Rowson were given a copy of the communique at 10.30 B.S.T. this morning. It was explained that copies were being given to Agency representatives in Jerusalem and that the Agency was being asked to co-operate in getting the illegal immigrants off the ships in France.

Locker's reaction was one of complete refusal to co-operate so far as he was concerned here, and he was sure that the answer would be the same in Jerusalem. He expressed his desire to register forthwith the strongest possible protest against the decision.

The interview lasted no more than two or three minutes. He was obviously deeply moved and resented especially the reference to "Zionist threats".

You will of course be reporting as soon as possible the result of your approach to the Agency in Jerusalem.

/Copies

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Lord President  
Admiralty

"  
" "  
War Office

" " (M.O.4.)  
" " (M.I.3.)

Air Ministry

" "  
Cabinet Offices

Foreign Office

" "  
" "  
Ministry of Defence

" " "  
" " "  
M.I.5.  
Ministry of Transport

Foreign Office (Research Dept.)

" " (Inf. Policy Dept.)

Cabinet Offices

- P.S. to Prime Minister
- Private Secretary
- Private Secretary
- First Sea Lord
- Mr. G.C.B. Dodds.
- Private Secretary
- C.I.G.S.
- Lt. Col. M.M. Charteris
- Lt. Col. W. Gore.
- Private Secretary
- Chief of Air Staff
- Sir N. Brook
- Mr. T.A.G. Charlton
- Private Secretary
- Mr. C.W. Baxter
- Mr. Beith
- Private Secretary
- Sir Henry Wilson Smith
- Defence Registry
- Mr. T.A. Robertson.
- Mr. W. Graham. M.B.E.
- Air Commodore K.C. Buss.
- Mr. Rennie
- Commander Evershed.

RECEIVED  
22 AUG 1947

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Reference:

FO

371

61822

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4444 48/20V

Mr Smith

132

With Mr Gaydon's  
Compliments.

21/8.

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Reference:

FO

371

61822

133

Guidance

Latest from Paris - 6.30. p.m.

At 11 o'clock this morning H.M. Consul General in Marseilles, accompanied by Lt.Col. Grigson, the Commander of the three transports, announced to the leaders of the passengers on the "Runnymede Park" that those who remained on board after 6 p.m. tomorrow would be <sup>take</sup> by sea to Hamburg. The "Empire Rival" was next visited and after that, the "Ocean Vigour". In general, the news was received quietly. On the "Runnymede Park" all leaders made no reply and, after announcing the decision, the passengers started the Zionist Anthem.

At the same time as the announcement was being made on the deck to the leaders, leaflets in French announcing the British Government's decision were distributed among the passengers.

On the "Empire Rival" there was no reaction by the passengers but on the "Ocean Vigour" the leaders asked permission to at once consult the passengers and said they would take a vote and give a reply. After half an hour a Polish Doctor, nominated to speak on behalf of the passengers, speaking German through a translator said:

"We have taken a vote and we have decided not to disembark. We have no quarrel with the British people and, in particular, no quarrel with the British crews and officers in this ship. We trust in British democracy. We shall maintain order and we shall not disembark in France!"

There were no signs of any decision to declare a hunger strike in any of the three ships. Women and children were walking about the decks as usual.

N.G. 21st August, 1947.

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**INWARD TELEGRAM**

This document must be paraphrased if the communication of its contents to any person outside Government Service is authorised.

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

Cypher

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 22nd August, 1947.  
R. 22nd " " 22.30 hrs.

IMPORTANT

No. 1607 Secret

Addressed S. of S.  
Repeated Washington, No. 204.  
" Rome, No. 419. (S. of S. please repeat to Paris as my No. 418).

Your telegram No. 1899.

WARFIELD Immigrants.

Immediate reaction of the Hebrew press is, as expected, violent and unanimous, and Yishuv in general is not at present open to reason. Criticism is based primarily on the argument that the decision of His Majesty's Government is a crime against humanity and secondly on the assumption that it represents a political error of the first magnitude which redounds to the discredit of the British and against any increase in anti-terrorist measures on the part of Yishuv. Keenest resentment is aroused by the allusion in the communiqué to "Zionist threats and propaganda" and no suggestion that Jewish organisations did anything whatsoever to induce the refugees not to disembark in France is tolerated (Corrupt group? profusion of the) animus is directed personally against Mr. Bevin, while the compassion and humanitarian feeling of the French is contrasted with the vindictiveness of the British.

2. Mayor of Petah Tiquah has stated unofficially that "not one of the immigrants will allow him or herself to be taken off the ship at Hamburg alive".

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3. Mrs. Meyerson also unofficially indicated that the incident would not (repeat not) result in the cessation of Yishuv's struggle against terrorism. On the other hand, there are indications that public opinion has been swayed towards support, or at least condonation, of the terrorists. Many observers anticipate a major terrorist outbreak within the next few days.

4. If it is decided to make a further statement on the lines indicated in second and fourth paragraphs of your telegram No. 1853 to the effect that the French are being asked to receive the immigrants back by land from the British Zone, I would strongly urge that it be made as soon as possible, otherwise the effect will, in my opinion, be considerably diminished.

(Copies sent to Foreign Office for transmission to Paris)

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**INWARD TELEGRAM**

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

Cypher (O.T.P.)

7744 48 9  
27 AUG 1947

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FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 24th August, 1947.

R. 24th " " 16.40 hrs.

IMPORTANT

No. 1614 Secret

My telegram No. 1607.

PRESIDENT WARFIELD Immigrants.

Jewish Agency Executive have published statement dated 23rd August objecting to transfer of immigrants to Germany as "latest action in the squalid war against the Jews' waged for last (? two  $\pm$ ) years by the British Government". Main points in statement, which is framed as direct reply to official communique this week:-

(i) There is no established shred of truth in assertion that Jews refused to land (? from omitted) ship under Zionist threat and propaganda. On contrary, they have themselves resisted the threats and propaganda, and mental and physical tortures deliberately inflicted by British Government.

(ii) H.M. Government's attempts to justify expulsion of refugees in July by citing instances of Arab-Jewish clashes in August is untenable. These incidents had no connection with immigration and leaders of both Arab and Jewish communities were concerned to preserve the peace.

(iii) H.M. Government as main law breakers in Palestine, since repudiating their obligations under Mandate (only basis of their presence in Palestine) cannot justify their cruel action by stating that they are responsible for law and order in Palestine.

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(iv) Attempt of refugees to enter Palestine is not illegal, but justified by their national and historic rights to National Home and by Mandate. It is prevention of their entry which is illegal.

(v) The monthly quota of 1,500 is arbitrary and devoid of legal or moral authority.

(vi) Jewish Agency cannot accept H.M. Government's invitation to persuade refugees to land in France, since this would amount to assisting H.M. Government in violation of Mandate.

(vii) The definition of desperate attempt by Jewish remnant of Nazi persecution to save themselves in their National Home as "illegal immigrant traffic" is vilification of most humanitarian work of self-rescue by Jewish people.

(viii) H.M. Government's fight against immigration of Jews into Palestine disregards every law of humanity, every obligation under Mandate and main principles of Charter of United Nations.

(ix) Cruel persecution and vilification by Mandatory Power will not break determination of refugees to return to their National Home.

2. Full text of statement, which accurately reflects present mood of most of Yishuv, follows by air-mail. I am considering whether an official rejoinder should be published on any other action taken, particularly in view of deliberate falsehood in (i) above. At the moment a rejoinder would only tend to aggravate an already highly charged and emotional situation.

3. Jewish Press comments continue to be bitter, and speculation as to what will happen when ship reaches Hamburg is coming to fore, with reports of determination on the part of refugees not to disembark in Germany, which were despatched by pressmen who visited RUNNYMEDE PARK shortly before her departure from Port de Bouc.

= Corrupt group, could be 25 years.

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SAVING.

From the High Commissioner for Palestine.

To the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Date..... 28th August 1947.

No..... 933..... Saving. PRIORITY.

76021/64/2  
RECEIVED  
8 SEP 1947  
In P.C.D.

My telegram No.1614; PRESIDENT WARFIELD.

Full text of Jewish Agency statement is as follows :-

"The expulsion from Palestine of nearly 4,600 Jewish victims of the Nazis who reached the shores of their National Home in July last, and their forcible deportation back to Germany is the latest action in "the squalid war against the Jews" waged for the last two years by the present British Government. In order to hide the ugliness, cruelty, and lawlessness of this act, an Official Communique No. 127, was published, full of misleading statements.

1. There is not a shred of truth in the assertion that the refugees refused to land in France "under Zionist threat and propaganda". The fact is that the refugees refused to be expelled from Palestine and dragged to any other place, in spite of the threats and propaganda of the British Government, in spite of the fact that several of the refugees were wounded and killed on the high seas by British armed forces, and in spite of the mental and physical torments, deliberately inflicted on them for several weeks in the prison ships in order to break their spirit, torments which included the burning of Hebrew holy scriptures sent to the refugees in France.

2. In order to justify the expulsion of the refugees in the middle of July, His Majesty's Government cite incidents which took place in Palestine in the middle of August - some attacks by Arab robbers which had no connection whatsoever with immigration. There was not a single Arab in this country who connected these incidents with the problem of immigration, as was done by His Majesty's Government in their Communique. It was during these very incidents that public expression was given of the deep anxiety of the Arab and Jewish masses to preserve peace in Palestine, as shown by the declarations made by leaders of both communities and by the peace-making meetings of Jews and Arabs in the quarters where the incidents took place.

Repudiated Obligations.

3. His Majesty's Government try to justify their cruel action by stating that they are "responsible for the maintenance of law and order in Palestine." We regret to state that it is His Majesty's Government who have been the main law breakers /in

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in Palestine since 1939 when they repudiated their obligation under the Mandate - the only title for British rule in Palestine.

4. The attempt of the refugees to enter Palestine was not an illegal act. They left for Palestine on the strength of their national and historic right to their National Home, guaranteed in international law under the Palestine Mandate. It is the arbitrary prevention of their entry into Palestine by the Mandate Mandatory Power which is an illegal act - the violation of a positive obligation under the Mandate.

5. The monthly quota of 1,500 is entirely arbitrary and devoid of any legal and of moral authority; it is based on the White Paper of 1939, in contradiction to the Mandate. It is not a change in that quota as His Majesty's Government claim but the maintenance of it, which constitutes a violation of international law.

6. His Majesty's Government are inviting the Jewish Agency to persuade the expelled refugees to land in France. The Jewish Agency is obliged and willing to assist by all means at its disposal, in the implementation of the Mandate, i.e. in facilitating Jewish immigration into Palestine, developing the Jewish National Home, but it can under no circumstances assist His Majesty's Government in the violation of the Mandate.

7. The desperate attempt of Jewish victims of Nazism, the small remnant of 6,000,000 slaughtered Jews in Europe, to save themselves in their National Home is defined by His Majesty's Government as illegal immigrant "traffic". This is a vilification of the most humanitarian work - work of self-rescue on the part of the Jewish people.

8. His Majesty's Government, in their Communique, declare that they are "resolutely determined to combat illegal immigrant traffic by every means at their disposal." In their fight against Jewish refugees His Majesty's Government disregard every law of humanity, and every obligation under the Mandate, as well as the main principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which "re-affirms faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women, and of nations large and small," and "respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of International Law."

9. This cruel persecution and vilification by the Mandatory Power will not break the spirit of the refugees who are resolutely determined to return to their National Home, to rebuild it and be rebuilt in it."

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